

These tips were taken out of the book, *Beyond the Bake Sale –The Essential Guide to Family-School partnerships* written by Anne T. Henderson, Karen L. Mapp, Vivian R. Johnson, and Don Davies. Tips were also provided from classroom teachers.



800 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD
57501

Phone: (605) 773-6400

School to Home
&
Home to School
Communication

**Ideas and tips on how to communicate
effectively between parents, children,
and schools.**

Schools

- Treat parents with respect and make them feel welcome upon entering the school's environment. Provide a family questionnaire to send home with them.
- Treat parents as partners in their child's education.
- Provide translators/interpreters or hire home school liasons.
- Give out tours of the school. This is especially helpful with families new to the community.
- Speak with parents about the best forms of communication.
- Host back to school nights, family fun nights, or book fairs. Invite all families and family members to these events as well as other school events.
- Provide "check-ups" for parents throughout the school year. Ask them what they think is benefiting their child and what problems or concerns they may have.
- Build curriculum of home by sending materials home regularly for parents to go over with their child. Inform families of resources including the school's website.
- Have a family questionnaire at the beginning of each year.
- Ask kids about outside of school activities.

Students

- Fill parents in on what you did throughout the day.
- Make sure the materials that are given out, for your parents, are given to your parents.
- Let your parents know about events going on in your school, let them know where they can sign up or volunteer to help.
- Encourage parents to communicate with teachers about your problems or success both in and outside of the school.
- Give an agenda or calendar of events to your parents so they know what you did that day or what you'll be doing that week.
- Allow your parents to look over your home-work; this will help them know what you're learning about and if you understand the subject.
- Ask your teachers weekly if there's anything you need to give to your parents, or ask your parents if there's anything they need to give to your teachers.
- Let your parents and teachers both know if you're struggling. This way, neither of them will be left out and they will be able to think of a solution together.

Families/Parents

Attend conferences, parent(s) night, or school events.

- Email teachers on a weekly basis asking what will be done in that class each week, and if there's anything you can do at home to help your child with that subject.
- Look over your child's home-work, and talk to them about what happened throughout their day.
- Ask for translators/interpreters when needed, or if you speak a different language at home, ask for materials to help your child in your preferred language.
- Don't depend on just the teacher or other school staff to contact you. A student benefits the most when both sides are involved with the student's education.
- Get to know other parents in the school, as well as other kids.
- Volunteer at sporting events, field trips, dances, or any other school events that you can.