



## Tip Sheets for Families

# Ways to Build Positive Relationships with Your Child's School

Relationships nurture the partnerships that are needed for children to succeed in school. Positive relationships with the school and teachers allow you to help shape your child's education. How can you help develop a positive relationship with your child's school?



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### Make building relationships a priority

- Let the teachers know that you want to be a partner in your child's education.
- Make contact with your children's teachers early, before you have any concerns.
- Try your best to attend school events like concerts and math nights as well as parent-teacher meetings.
- Try to volunteer in the school too!
- Check the school website and read emails from the school.
- Thank teachers for their work. For example, tell the teacher when your child enjoys a project.
- Remember that parents and schools both want the best for children.

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### Communication

- Ask for an interpreter if it would be helpful.
- Let your child's teacher know what you hope your child will accomplish during the school year.
- Ask the school and teachers for information and feedback.
- Share your child's strengths and challenges.
- When possible, share about any major life changes (divorce, new sibling, etc.).
- When you feel comfortable, let your child's teacher know about special events or achievements outside school.
- Discuss with your child's teacher best ways to communicate. Ask the teacher if s/he prefers notes sent in your child's backpack, voice messages, or email.
- Let the school know how you prefer to communicate as well.
- Be respectful and willing to learn what your child is doing in school.
- Two-way communication helps you understand and be a part of the school community.

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### Connect with Other Families

- Connections among families can also improve your experiences in the school community.
- Try your best to participate in PTA, PTO, SEPACs with other parents and caregivers from your child's class.
- The teachers and administration can help you meet other families.