

COMMUNICATING WITH PARENTS: PART II

7.1. Vocabulary

Ex. 1. Match the words to their Russian equivalents.

1. praise	a. сотрудничать
2. support	b. беспокойство
3. dialogue	c. хвалить
4. successful	d. рассмотреть
5. issue	e. родительское собрание
6. review	f. разрешать (урегулировать)
7. resolve	g. поддержка; поддерживать
8. parent-teacher conference	h. проблема
9. concern	i. диалог
10. collaborate	j. успешный

Ex. 2. Complete the sentences with the given words.

conference, issue, praise, successful, parent-teacher, resolve, collaborate, review, support, concerns, dialogue

_____ (1) is important for effective communication with parents.

_____ (2) about student progress should be addressed in a calm and respectful dialogue with parents.

Teachers should _____ (3) with parents to create the best learning environment for their child.

One _____ (4) that may arise during a parent-teacher conference is a lack of understanding between the teacher and parents.

It's important for teachers to listen to parental concerns during a _____ (5) _____ (6).

Parents often ____ (7) their child's accomplishments to their teacher during a parent-teacher conference.

If there is a disagreement, it's important to remain calm and try to ____ (8) the issue together.

During a parent-teacher conference, the teacher will ____ (9) the student's progress and address any concerns.

A ____ (10) collaboration between teachers and parents leads to better academic outcomes for students.

Teachers rely on the ____ (11) of parents to create a positive learning environment for their child.

7.2. Word Formation

Ex. 1. Change the form of the words where necessary.

1. ____ (success) comes to those who work hard and never give up.
2. Being ____ (success) requires determination, perseverance, and a positive mindset.
3. We should ____ (collaborate) with our colleagues to achieve better results.
4. ____ (collaborate) among team members is essential for the success of any project.

7.3. Reading

Ex. 1. Read the text.

Ways to Reach Out to Kindergarten Parents

Send a welcome letter or postcard. Once your class list is finalized, mail families a welcome letter or postcard. If you like, include a photo of yourself so the kids and parents know who to look for on the first day of school. Click here to see some darling postcards by Teacher Created Resources – they're just for Kindergarten!

Set up brief family meetings before the first day of school (if possible). At one school where I taught, we scheduled 15 minute meetings with each child and family prior to the first day of school. Sure, it was a bit tiring, but oh my GOODNESS was it helpful! Not only did it make families feel more comfortable on the first day, but it also gave me a little sneak peek at what my students would be like. The kids brought their school supplies (and then I wasn't scrambling to

shove tissue boxes into cabinets on the first day). I also gave a simple little assessment to see where the kids were at ([grab the assessment for free here](#)). If family meetings are not already in place at your school, why not ask to see if scheduling them would be possible?

Share photos (with permission). Snap some photos during the first week of school and send a little photo newsletter home with students at the end of the week (you'll need parent permission first). My students' families love seeing pictures of what their kids are doing at school! If you are able to have parent meetings before school begins, ask parents to sign a photo release form during that meeting.

Collect family photos and post them in the classroom. Speaking of photos, ask parents to send them, too! At the beginning of each school year (usually when I taught my Our School Families Unit) I had each family send in a photo. I hung up the photos somewhere in the classroom. It was comforting to the kids, and little gestures like this help merge the gap between home and school.

Provide family games to help parents create fun learning experiences at home. My Kindergarteners' parents looooved homework. I never sent any home the first week or two, and I usually had parents ask when the homework would begin! Instead of only sending home worksheets, however, I also sent home games that families could play together. The 35 literacy games in my Family Literacy Games pack shown below help families feel involved in their children's education. The games come with detailed parent directions (in English and Spanish) and links to optional parent videos. Parents love the visual directions provided in the videos!

Call home to share positive news. I'm sure you've already heard about the importance of positive phone calls home, so I won't dwell on it. I know that it can be hard to find time to make those calls! Another option is sending notes home.

Invite parents into the classroom on multiple occasions. I'll be the first to admit that I am much more comfortable teaching in front of 5 year olds than I am a group of parents. However, inviting parents into the classroom has always been a wonderful experience for me. At the end of our second writing unit of the year, my Kinders create little invitations for their parents, asking them to come to a writing celebration. The kids read their stories aloud in small groups while the parents watch. The families absolutely love it! After that initial experience, I then invite parents into the classroom to volunteer, as well as for additional events and performances.

Create volunteer opportunities for parents who cannot help out in the classroom. Some parents will not be able to come into the classroom due to jobs or

other responsibilities. But they can still help out! Ask if parents would like to help out with cutting or other prep work, and then send home large plastic baggies with directions and the materials.

Explicitly tell families how important they are! All of the above actions send the message to parents that they are valued and an important part of their children's education. But nothing replaces explicitly telling them how much you value them and their input. Some parents have not had positive experiences with the school system in the past. You have the opportunity to help them create a more positive future!

Ex. 2. Choose the correct answer.

1. What is one suggestion for reaching out to kindergarten parents before the first day of school?
 - A. Send a welcome letter or postcard
 - B. Set up brief family meetings
 - C. Share photos with permission
 - D. Collect family photos and post them in the classroom
2. What does the author suggest for involving parents in their children's education at home?
 - A. Sending home worksheets
 - B. Providing family games
 - C. Calling home to share positive news
 - D. Inviting parents into the classroom
3. How does the author recommend inviting parents into the classroom?
 - A. Sending notes home
 - B. Creating volunteer opportunities
 - C. Having a writing celebration
 - D. Asking parents to come to performances
4. What is the purpose of sending a photo newsletter home with students?

- A. To show parents what their children are doing at school
 - B. To gather permission for taking photos
 - C. To involve parents in classroom activities
 - D. To create a positive future for parents
5. What does the author emphasize about involving parents in their children's education?
- A. It is important to explicitly tell them their value.
 - B. It is necessary to schedule family meetings before school.
 - C. It is crucial to share photos with permission.
 - D. It is helpful to send a welcome letter or postcard.

Ex. 3. Share your opinion: What do you think of these tips? Are they useful?

7.4. Communication

Ex. 1. Read three dialogues. In pairs, act them out.

Dialogue 1

Parent: Hi, I'm John. My son is in your class. It's nice to meet you.

Teacher: Hello, John. Nice to meet you too. Your son is doing well in school.

Parent: Thank you. He seems to enjoy it a lot.

Teacher: Yes, he does. But there are some areas of concern that we should discuss.

Parent: Oh, really? What seems to be the problem?

Teacher: Well, he has difficulty following directions and staying focused during lessons.

Parent: I see. Is there anything we can do to help him improve?

Teacher: Absolutely. I think if we collaborate and work together, we can help him overcome these challenges.

Parent: That sounds like a good plan. What specifically can we do at home?

Teacher: One suggestion is to establish a routine for homework and study time. It's also important to provide a quiet and organized space for him to do his work.

Parent: Those are great ideas. We'll definitely try that. Is there anything else?

Teacher: Another strategy is to break down tasks into smaller steps, so they're more manageable for him.

Parent: Okay, we'll keep that in mind. Thank you for your advice.

Teacher: You're welcome. I hope with our support, he will make progress soon.

Dialogue 2

Parent: Good evening, Ms. Johnson. I'm Sarah's mother. How is she doing in school?

Teacher: Good evening, Mrs. Smith. Sarah is doing very well in all her subjects. She's an excellent student.

Parent: That's wonderful to hear! She always tells me how much she loves coming to school every day.

Teacher: Yes, she's a joy to have in class. Her enthusiasm is contagious.

Parent: Thank you. I'm glad to know she's happy here. Is there anything she needs to work on?

Teacher: Overall, she's doing great, but there is one issue we should address. During group activities, she tends to be a bit shy and hesitant to participate.

Parent: I see. Is there anything we can do to help her become more comfortable?

Teacher: Yes, there are a few things you can do at home. Encourage her to express her opinions and ideas, and praise her when she does so.

Parent: That's a good suggestion. We'll definitely do that. Anything else?

Teacher: Another strategy is to provide opportunities for her to practice speaking in groups, such as playdates with classmates.

Parent: Okay, we'll arrange for that. Thank you for your advice.

Teacher: You're welcome. I'm sure with your support, she will become more confident.

Dialogue 3

Parent: Hi, I'm David. My daughter is in your class. How is she doing?

Teacher: Hello, David. Your daughter is a hardworking student, and she's been very successful so far.

Parent: That's great to hear. She really enjoys learning new things.

Teacher: Yes, she's very curious and eager to participate in class discussions.

Parent: I'm glad she's actively involved. Is there anything she needs to improve on?

Teacher: There is one area where she could use some extra practice – math problem-solving.

Parent: I see. How can we help her with that at home?

Teacher: One suggestion is to review the concepts covered in class and provide additional math problems for her to solve.

Parent: Okay, we'll make sure to do that. Any other recommendations?

Teacher: Another strategy is to encourage her to explain her thinking process when solving math problems.

Parent: That makes sense. We'll work on that with her. Thank you for your guidance.

Teacher: You're welcome. I'm confident that with your support, she will excel in math.