

Here is a list of 8 suggested questions to help you get the best out of parent-teacher meetings

Which activities most engage my child in her learning? Parents often say they wish they could be a fly on the wall in class. Asking this question gives a snapshot of what your child looks like when she's motivated, and what makes her tick.

What approaches have resulted in my child making the most progress? This question lets you see how the teacher tailors her methods to your individual child, and also highlights the positives in your child's learning and development. If a particular approach, such as using the computer, is working well in one area of learning, you can apply it to other areas that your child may find more difficult.

What can we do at home to help? You are your child's first educator, and the things you do at home are vital to support her learning. This might be as simple as reading every night, encouraging your child to develop other interests and skills - your input will build upon what she's learning at school.

How do you address different behaviors in the classroom? What have you found works for my child best? Different children need different approaches to help them manage the classroom and other social environments. This is an important time for sharing information between home and school so that successful approaches can be shared.

How easily does my child make and maintain friendships? Being socially connected at school is essential. Developing a holistic picture of your child socially is helpful for the teachers and parents.

Where has been my child's greatest growth this term? This is a great question to ask of teachers and your child; they do a fair amount of self-reflection in the classroom. Asking the teacher about your child's growth will help everyone reflect on what has been effective and what is to be acknowledged.

What's the biggest challenge coming up for my child? "Whether a particular skill, an issue with another student, or simply paying more attention in class, asking the teacher what she expects to challenge your child allows you to be prepared to support her if she struggles.

Suggested responses to help your child explain more precisely what is happening for him/her at school

1. **I'm bored in school** (boredom is a word often used to describe frustration and confusion)
 - a. Can you tell me more about that?
 - b. What do you mean when you say you are bored?
 - c. Show me what you were doing when you felt bored.
 - d. What was happening around you when you felt bored?

2. **It's too hard**
 - a. Show me what you are trying to do.
 - b. When something feels hard, how do you begin working on it?
 - c. When something feels too hard, who can you ask for help?
 - d. Let's look together and maybe we can break it down into smaller sections.

3. **She/he didn't tell me what to do/ I don't know what to do**
 - a. Show me what you have and let's see if there are instructions.
 - b. Tell me what you think you need to do.
 - c. When you aren't sure what to do, who can you ask for help?

4. **It's too easy**
 - a. Sounds like you really mastered this, show me what you are working on.
 - b. Explain to me your thinking about this. What might we do about it?
 - c. It can feel good to have mastered something, what is the next step?
 - d. When something feels easy and you understand it, how can you help a classmate?

5. **I finished my reading**
 - a. Tell me what happened in the book you are reading?
 - b. Does it remind you of something else you have read/experienced/saw/heard?
 - c. Why do you think so and so did that thing?
 - d. What did you learn about the character from what he/she did?
 - e. What do you think will happen next?

5 Perfect Responses to the Phrase "I'm Bored" when your kids are at home

1. That's okay.

Somewhere along the way we've fallen into a misconception that boredom is a bad thing. We over-schedule our lives to the point that we don't have time to be bored, and consequently, don't have time to be creative.

It's okay to be bored, because so many times, boredom ignites creativity and exploration. Especially if boredom is supervised, children who are left to ponder their boredom will eventually find something to do. This might mean inventing a new game or playing pretend. A lot of times when any of my four children will come up to me and say, "Mom, I'm bored," I'll say, "That's okay. You'll come up with something."

2. Find something to read.

Reading is one of the most beneficial activities your child can engage in. Not only will it improve their fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary, but they can discover new worlds they never would have otherwise.

3. Have you been outside yet?

Being inside a while can put anyone in a funk. If kids (or adults for that matter) find themselves without anything to do, it's time to go outside. A little bit of sunshine and fresh air can completely turn your attitude around.

4. What have you created lately?

Before you refer kids to a screen, try asking them what they've created lately. Have they painted, drawn, or played a musical instrument lately? Being bored actually gives us the opportunity to create. Instead of offering your child a remote, try handing them a paintbrush. Get out your old guitar from college and direct them to YouTube where they can learn to play for free.

5. Let's do something together.

A lot of times when one of my kids aren't sure what to do, it's because they need a little guidance. My final line of defense to the phrase I'm bored is to suggest we do something together. If I'm cooking dinner, I'll ask my son if he wants to help me chop the veggies. If I have some free time on my hands, I'll suggest we play a board game together or read a book together.

I've found that the claim of boredom is often a query for attention. Doing something together is what kids love most of all and you'll soon find that they weren't bored at all—they just wanted a friend to hang out with.

35 questions to ask after school— instead of 'What did you do today?'

1. Don't pepper your child with questions right away. That can be too overwhelming. They may be tired or just not really up for conversation the second they get in the car or off the bus, so just give them some time.

2. Ask them open-ended questions. You're more likely to get better information out of them this way—think longer stories and more descriptive explanations.

3. Chat casually with them. If you seem to be pressuring them with wanting answers to your questions or maybe even asking the wrong types of questions—they might not be receptive to that.

4. Pause if they don't seem to be engaging. If when you first start chatting about their day, and they don't seem to be engaging with you, try again later. Your timing may just be off and it's always best then to take a break and give it a go at another time.

1. What did you like best about your day today?

2. Was there anything that happened today that made you feel bad?

3. What was the most interesting thing that you learned in school today?
4. Did you make a new friend today? What's their name? What do you like about them?
5. Is there anything you would like help with?
6. What is/was your favorite thing to do during recess?
7. What's the silliest thing that happened today?
8. What do you like about yourself?
9. If you could be anyone for a week, who would you be? Why?
10. What are you grateful for today?
11. What is something you would have liked to do differently today?
12. What would you change about school?
13. Who is someone at school you'd like to be friends with?
14. What makes someone a good friend?
15. Who were you a helper to today?
16. Who was kind to you today?
17. What did you notice today that most people probably didn't notice?
18. I need a laugh. Tell me something funny that happened today.
19. Who did you sit by at lunch?
20. What made you feel happy today?

21. What made you feel sad today?
22. Who did you play with today?
23. What book did you read at storytime?
24. Did you learn something you'd never known before?
25. Did something surprise you today?
26. Did you do anything different today?
27. What did you do in school today that you really enjoyed?
28. Who did you play with at recess?
29. What happened during lunch today?
30. What is one fun thing that happened to you today?
31. Did you have any embarrassing moments?
32. Do you feel comfortable in your classroom?
33. Did your teacher give you any compliments?
34. Did you feel worried at any time in school today?
35. Did you feel scared at any time in school today?