

For Teachers: Asking Parents Questions About Students

Use these kinds of questions to help parents assess how well their children's behaviors serve their values, imagine new possibilities for their children, and discover how they can help.

Questions about the situation

- What do you see from your end?
- What is your perspective on your child's experience at school?
- How is this situation affecting your child?
- Has this kind of situation happened before?
- How is this time different?

Questions about workability

- When does your child avoid some aspect of school (such as doing a task, taking on a challenge, making decisions, or working with another student)?
- What does your child do to avoid this aspect of school?
- What do you do when you see your child avoiding this aspect of school?
- What have you tried at home to address the situation?
- What strategies seem to help?

Questions about the student's values

- What does your child spend his or her free time doing?
- What is your child good at?
- When does your child seem to care the most about something at school?
- When does your child try his or her hardest at school?
- Has there ever been a topic, project, or assignment your child continued to learn about or work on after he or she no longer needed to for school?

Questions about alternative behaviors

- What strategies haven't you tried?
- What's stopping you from trying these strategies?
- Why try something new?
- What will happen if you don't try this?
- What will happen if you do?
- How important is this outcome to you?
- What would help you try this?

Questions about supporting the student

- When your child is struggling with some aspect of school, what does he or she need from you?
- How can other members of your family support your child with something he or she is struggling with?
- Do peers play a role in supporting your child?
- Which adults at school does your child talk the most about?
- What role can adults at school have in supporting your child?