

How to Engage in Your Child's Learning



Family and
Community
Engagement
Ottawa-Carleton District School Board

SATE
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
THROUGH EQUITY



OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



Learning



Well-Being



Social
Responsibility

Acknowledgement of Algonquin Territory

We acknowledge
that our learning is
taking place on
unceded and
unsurrendered
Algonquin Territory.

We thank the
Algonquin Nation for
hosting us and
recognize their
enduring presence
on this land.



Agreements for Our Session:

1. Attentive Listening
2. Value All Voices
3. Right to Pass/Right to Participate
4. Mutual Respect

Goals for Our Session:

- Foster parent -child -educator partnerships to support active participation in your child's educational journey
- Tips for connecting with your child
- Tips for connecting with educators

This workshop will equip parents with some helpful tips and tools to support their children's growth and academic success.

Connecting with Your Child

Cultivate Confidence towards Independence

- Explaining and co-establishing routines
- Supporting your child to feel ready for school each day
- Ensuring adequate sleep and nutrition
- Discuss use and how to monitor use of devices
- Homework and review - opportunity to discuss learning
- Get outside - explore and experience learning and risk-taking outside of the classroom/school

Connecting with Your Child

Nurture Your Child's Passion for Lifelong Learning

- Through reading, conversations and curiosities
- Speak with to your child about their day
- Have them explain school work they bring home
- Make learning fun (ie. family games and challenges)
- Going to the public library and community centres
- Talking about current events
- Participate in and volunteer at community events together
- Make time to talk together about their interests

Connecting with Your Child

Provide a Safe and Loving Space

- Engage in talk about emotions
- Problem-solving together
- Foster independence while providing support and guidance

Connecting with Educator

Meet with Your Child's Educator(s)

- Introduce yourself and share important information about your child (ie. their strengths, interests and aspirations, their health and learning needs, family structure, etc.)
- Visit the classroom
- Attend your school's Meet -the-Teacher Night and Parent-Teacher Interviews
- Bring a friend or family member to provide support and assistance if needed

Connecting with Educator

Know What Your Child is Learning

- Email or call to discuss:
 - Which curriculum goals are being taught
 - What your child is learning
 - What are the expectations in the classroom
 - What help your child is given to meet the expectations
 - What strategies could be used to support learning at home
- Access your child's classroom online learning environment (ie. Google Classroom or Virtual Learning Environment, VLE)

Connecting with Educator

Get Involved and Be Informed

- Volunteer reading with and to students
- Participate in field trips
- Participate in special events, parent workshops, celebrations in the classroom and assemblies
- Be a guest speaker and tutor/mentor
- Volunteer coach or help out with a club
- Attend a school council, school board and/or committee meeting
- Frequently check both the school and OCDSB websites and social media pages

Connect to Communicate and Collaborate

Family Conference 2023 **SATE**      

How to Engage in Your Child's Learning

Connect to Communicate and Collaborate

Connecting with Your Child	Connecting with Educator
<p>Cultivate Confidence Towards Independence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explaining and co-establishing routines Supporting your child to feel ready for school each day Ensuring adequate sleep and nutrition Discuss use and how to monitor use of devices Homework and review - opportunity to discuss learning Get outside - explore and experience learning and risk-taking outside of the classroom and school <p>Nurture Your Child's Passions for Lifelong Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through reading, conversations and curiosities Speak with to your child about their day Have them explain school work they bring home Make learning fun (ie. family games and challenges) Going to the public library and community centres Talking about current events Participate in and volunteer at community events together Make time to talk together about their interests <p>Provide a Safe and Loving Space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage in talk about their emotions Problem-solving together Foster independence while providing support and guidance 	<p>Meet with your Child's Educator(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce yourself and share important information about your child (ie. their strengths, interests and aspirations, their health and learning needs, family structure, etc.) Visit the classroom Attend your school's Meet-the-Teacher Night and Parent-Teacher Interviews Bring a friend or family member to provide support and assistance if needed <p>Know What Your Child is Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email or call to discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which curriculum goals are being taught What your child is learning What are the expectations in the classroom What help your child is given to meet the expectations What strategies could be used to support learning at home Access your child's classroom online learning environment (ie. Google Classroom or Virtual Learning Environment) <p>Get Involved and Be Informed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer reading with and to students Participate in field trips Participate in special events, parent workshops, celebrations in the classroom and assemblies Be a guest speaker and tutor/mentor Volunteer coach or help out with a club Attend a school council, school board and/or committee meetings Frequently check both the school and OCDSB websites and social media pages

The Power of Conversation

When you ask your child an open-ended question:

- You encourage them to think critically about the answer. They have to process the inquiry and come up with a response that is more than just a single word. This type of thinking is an essential skill that will help them in school and life.
- You are letting them know that you are interested in hearing what they have to say without judgment.
- You value their thoughts and ideas. This can build self-confidence and help them feel more comfortable sharing their opinions with others.

Moreover, it can also help strengthen your relationship with your child as they feel like they can come to you with anything on their mind. (Source: <https://www.edutopia.org/blog/13-questions-for-parents-to-ask-their-child>)

Ask Your Child	Ask the Educator(s)
<p>Questions about Learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What was the hardest thing you had to do today? What did you learn about in _____ today? What rules/expectations are different in your classroom than at home? Which subject was your favourite today? Why? How did the teacher help or guide you with your learning today? What did you learn from this? (i.e. feedback) What do you want to learn more about? What is one change you will make this week to become a better learner? What are you struggling to understand at the moment? How do you know if you have achieved your goal? What can you do when you are stuck? Is there someone you feel comfortable asking for help? <p>Promote Curiosity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What could happen if...? I wonder why/what/if...? How can we...? Tell me more about it...? What would you do about...? Why do you think...? How did you do that? Why did you do that? How can we find out? What made you think of that? What does that remind you of? Why do you think that happened? How does it work? What could you change or do differently? What could we try next time? Show me how you would do that? 	<p>Ask the Educator(s)</p> <p>_____ method is the best way for us to communicate (Google/Meet, phone, email)?</p> <p>_____ events are coming up and what should we know about?</p> <p>_____ my child doing in class - learning, socially, well-being?</p> <p>_____ my child is struggling during class, how can we partner to support my child?</p> <p>_____ are the most important and complex (content-related) ideas my child needs to understand at the end of the year?</p> <p>_____ assessments designed to help my child show you what they can do?</p> <p>_____ I do to support literacy and numeracy in my home?</p> <p>_____ kinds of questions can I ask my child on a daily basis about your class?</p> <p>_____ provide multiple ways/opportunities for students to show their learning and academic achievement?</p> <p>_____ are the best school and district resources that we should consider using as a family to support my child in the classroom?</p> <p>_____ are not asking but should be?</p>

Case Study/Scenario Discussion:

1. Gather into a small group
2. Facilitator will lead
3. As group, decide if you are using a provided scenario or providing one of your own
4. Identify the issue
5. Ask clarifying questions
6. Consider next steps - what action can you take?

Case Study/Scenario: Practice Having Conversations

1. My child is struggling in school this year. The teacher recommends an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for my child.

2. My child feels anxious about their classes. They bring home work that I cannot help with, what should I do?

3. My child is not getting along with other students. The Principal agrees the behaviour is unacceptable, but the problem continues.

4. My child isn't talking to me about school and never does/has homework. We would like to have more information about what my child is learning. What can I do?

5. My child is having trouble adjusting to the expectations of the classroom. The teacher recommends testing to identify underlying issues.

Addressing Concerns/Conflicts with School Staff

Contact Teacher

First, contact staff directly.

Be sure to document the conversation and follow up with an email outlining what was discussed and next steps.

Contact Principal

If you are unable to resolve the issue with the teacher or are unable to meet with the teacher move to next level.

Be sure to document the conversation and follow up with an email outlining what was discussed and next steps.

Superintendent of Instruction

If unable to resolve the issue with the principal seek the assistance of the Superintendent. Be sure to share what you have done already.

Be sure to document the conversation and follow up with an email outlining what was discussed.

Director

Request opportunity to speak with the Director of education.

Be sure to document the conversation and follow up with an email outlining what was discussed and next steps.

Thank You for Joining Us Today!

Please reach out to SATE:

SATE Principal Chantel Smith (chantel.smith@ocdsb.ca)

Community Education Liaisons Noora Hussein (noora.hussein@ocdsb.ca)
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