I feel my child is struggling socially.

Questions You Should Ask:
1. Does my child have any friends at school?
2. Why do you feel my child is having problems socializing with other children?
3. Is there anything you can do in the classroom to help my child feel more comfortable around his/her peers?
4. Do you have any suggestions about what I could do at home to help my child get along better with his/her classmates?
5. Would it be a good idea for my child to talk to the school counselor or psychologist about ways to improve her/his socialization skills?

Tips for Parents:
1. Try to make your home a place that helps your child's friends feel comfortable.
2. Invite a classmate to your home to play with your child.
3. Have your child participate in programs that bolster his/her interests, skills (karate, music, scouting) and circle of friends.
4. Let your child see you in social interactions so that he/she will have an appropriate role model.
5. Children with friends at school are generally happier than those without; however, solid relationships with family members, neighborhood children, and other adults can be good substitutes.

I feel my child is doing well. What else is there to talk about?

Questions You Should Ask:
1. What grade level is my child performing on in reading, math, social studies, and science?
2. How is my child doing in relation to the rest of the class? (Is my child performing in the top 25% or top 10%?)
3. What do you see as my child's strengths and needs?
4. Could you tell me about my child's work ethic, relations with other children, behavior in class, and attitude toward learning?
5. Can you tell me what academic topics and skills will be emphasized this year in your classroom?

Tips for Parents:
1. Give the teacher extra information about your child to help him or her know the child better.
2. Express your appreciation to the teacher for the good year your child is having at school.
3. Ask the teacher if there is anything special that you could do to help in the classroom this year.
4. Talk to your child each day about what is going on in school, and be sure to praise the effort she/he is putting into getting a good education.

Suggested Questions Developed By:
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Adapted by:
Parent Diversity Advisory Council
For District 204 parents
I feel my child is struggling academically.

Questions You Should Ask:
1. Is my child performing at grade level in reading, math, social studies, and science?
2. What exactly do you feel is the problem or problems that are causing my child to struggle in school this year?
3. What special help can the school offer my child to get him or her on track academically as quickly as possible?
4. Does my child receive an intervention? Would it be appropriate to test my child for a learning disability?
5. How can I help my child do better in school?

Tips for Parents:
1. Approach the conference with a cooperative attitude and avoid confrontation.
2. Make a list of the positive and negative experiences your child is having at school and share them with the teacher.
3. Remember that you have only heard half of the story. Could your child be overreacting to a situation?
4. Listen carefully to your child's comments about what is going on at school and help him/her find ways to handle the situation.
5. Visit the classroom to monitor your child's perception of the situation.

I feel my child and the teacher don't get along.

Questions You Should Ask:
1. Is my child behaving appropriately in the classroom?
2. Are you aware that my child is finding it difficult to work with you?
3. What suggestions do you have about ways my child could improve his/her relationship with you?
4. Do you have any ideas about how you might get along better with my child?
5. What can I do to support a positive relationship between you and my child?

Tips for Parents:
1. Discuss with the teacher the possibility of your child spending less time with the curriculum mastered and more time with extension and enrichment opportunities.
2. Visit Internet sites (www.nagc.org) to find ideas about how to challenge bright children.
3. Consider enrolling your child in some enrichment classes or activities either after school or on Saturdays. School districts, colleges, and museums offer these types of programs.
4. Approach the conference with a cooperative attitude and avoid confrontation.
5. Make a list of the positive and negative experiences your child is having at school and share them with the teacher.
6. Remember that you have only heard half of the story. Could your child be overreacting to a situation?
7. Listen carefully to your child's comments about what is going on at school and help him/her find ways to handle the situation.
8. Visit the classroom to monitor your child's perception of the situation.