

Working together: 5 Key Questions to Help Your Child Succeed at School

When your child has a new teacher, it's important to talk about how you will work together as a team. This helps your child feel safe, supported, and ready to learn.

The questions below can help guide conversations about your child's education, roles and responsibilities as well as how you'd like to be involved in your child's learning. It can be helpful to check in regularly and update if needed.

1 What is the best way for us to stay in touch?

- **Who:** Who should I contact if I have questions or concerns?
- **How:** What is the best way to communicate? (Email, phone call, school app/board portal, communication book, meetings?)
- **When:** How often can we connect? (Regular updates, as needed, or at set times?)
- **What:** What type of communication works best for both of us? Tip: share the type of communication you would like and ask what type the school would like.



2 What supports and strategies are available to help my child succeed?

- **What:** What are the different types, options or tools used? (Sensory breaks, alternate spaces, visual aids, peer support, technology, writing aids?)
- **How:** How will my child know how to access these supports? (How can they communicate their need? To whom? When?)

3 Who will be involved with my child at school, and what are their roles?

- **Who:** Who will be working with or supporting my child? (Teachers, support staff, specialists, peers?)
- **How:** How will they provide support? (In class, small groups, one-on-one, at recess or other unstructured times?)
- **When:** How often will my child receive support? (This information is usually included in the Individual Education Plan (IEP).)
- **What:** Are there additional school resources my child could benefit from?

4 How will goals be established, progress tracked and reported on?

- **When:** How often will I receive updates? (Check-ins, reports, meetings?)
- **How:** How can we ensure my input in my child's education? (Identifying IEP goals? Sharing strategies that have proven effective for my child? Factors that may directly or indirectly impact their learning?)
- **What:** What is the best way to share progress? (Written reports, emails, meetings?)

5 How can we work together to make sure my child feels safe, happy, and supported at school?

- **How:** How can I support my child's learning at home?
- **What:** What information about my child would help you support them best?

