



Brainmaker

SETTING UP PURPOSEFUL PARTNERSHIPS WITH YOUR CHILDREN'S TEACHERS

Setting the stage for purposeful partnerships

Teachers and caregivers need to work together to support student development and learning. Setting up a PURPOSEFUL partnership can leverage the expertise and experiences of both and set the stage for proactive and productive teamwork.

A PARTNERSHIP MEANS BOTH PEOPLE HAVE POWER AND BOTH PARTIES BENEFIT BY BEING IN THE PARTNERSHIP

Caregiver expertise

The medical, academic, and behavioral history of your child

Knowledge of your child's interests, goals and gifts

Past efforts that have worked or not worked to engage your child at school

Your child's personality

Knowledge of the home environment, your family values, and how you support learning at home

Teacher expertise

Curriculum and grade level expectations

Teaching methods to reach all students

Experience with other students and the ability to gauge age appropriate behaviors versus concerning ones

Motivating reluctant learners

Methods to help struggling learners

Resources to help families that are struggling

A purposeful partnership is established when people respect and leverage each other's expertise to work collaboratively to design an optimal learning experience for students.



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Introducing your children to their teachers

Top 6 topics for sharing your expertise

Write an email that covers the topics below or submit the form on the next page at the beginning of the year. Teachers may not know your children in the first few days, so this information will be useful throughout the beginning of the year as they get to know them. Make sure to include your phone number, email, and how/when you prefer to be contacted.

Learning Style Children learn in different ways. Some need to hear information while others can read and learn. Some like projects and others like writing. Teachers can use this information to design lessons and interventions tailored to your children's needs.	Health history Some health conditions impact children's moods, focus and comprehension. Knowing these challenges ahead of time helps teachers understand each student's individual needs, so they can build compassionate relationships, and design supports that are critical to student success.	Favorite Subjects/Interests We learn better when we are interested in what we are learning. Teachers can make content interesting and relevant and design supports for content your children might struggle to learn if they understand more about their preferences and interests.
Motivation Some children are motivated by compliments. Others like tangible rewards or prizes. For some, competition is motivating. A key challenge for teachers is student disengagement, so understanding how your child is motivated can help them develop strategies that work.	Home Hobbies Relationships are key to student engagement. Knowing more about how your children spend time outside of school can help teachers connect with them. They can build relationships faster and get your students excited about coming to school.	Stress A stressed brain struggles to learn. Understanding stressors your children experience inside and outside of school can help teachers build compassion and empathy. They can also provide support and positive reinforcement when your children face their fears and succeed.



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MY CHILD'S NAME: _____

MY NAME AND RELATIONSHIP TO CHILD: _____

MY PHONE NUMBER: _____ MY EMAIL: _____

HOW AND WHEN I PREFER TO BE CONTACTED: _____

I am looking forward to getting to know you and your child this year! Please share information about each of the topics below. You do not need to directly answer each question. These are listed to give you ideas about what you might share under each heading. Feel free to write on the back as well.

<p>Learning Style: Share examples of past units, projects or activities your children enjoyed. How do they like to learn and how do they like to show what they know?</p>	
<p>Health history List any health conditions your child has and describe how it impacts behavior, learning or relationships. (ex. ADHD, anxiety, autism, physical impairments, etc.)</p>	
<p>Favorite Subjects/Interests What are your child's favorite subjects? Is your child obsessed with space, animals, gaming, sports or fashion? What subjects are difficult for your children and why?</p>	
<p>Motivation What motivates your child (praise, rewards/prizes, competition)? Share how you have successfully motivated your child to embrace a challenge.</p>	
<p>Home Hobbies What does your child like to do in the evenings and on weekends? What are their hobbies and interests? What activities or games do they enjoy? Do they have a pet?</p>	
<p>Stress Is there anything happening outside of school that may cause them to arrive stressed? Do they get anxious speaking in class or taking tests? Are they worried about not making friends? Is there a certain time of day that is more difficult for them? How do you calm them at home?</p>	