

## Family Conferences Can we talk?

The saying is true, “parents are their child’s first teachers” but all parents can benefit from the insight that the school teacher can provide about their child’s school day and interactions with their peers. At MLC we want to collaborate with our parents about their children’s growth and development by setting aside time for regular family conferences. In these conferences we can help families plan and create goals that relate to their child’s development and learning. All parents have hopes and dreams for their child’s future. It is our desire to help those come true.

### Don't worry!

Many parents fear parent-teacher conferences as they assume the only reason to have to meet privately with their child’s teacher or school program director is because there is a problem with their child at school. When in fact, the goal of conducting regular conferences is to plan together and share knowledge about the student. When necessary, we can provide information about services for their child.

### What to expect

Teachers will be able to create a window into your child’s preschool life. They will share with you:

- photos of your child at play
- samples of art and writing work
- review assessment scores
- discuss goals for your child
- provide resources



**Parent/Teacher  
Conferences**



## MLC February Family Minutes

A resource from our family to yours



## The benefits

Research has shown that when there is consistent communication between families and teachers, children do better. Effective collaboration between parents, teachers and service providers allows for valuable knowledge to be shared about the child's development. The sharing of this information provides a greater understanding to the teacher about the challenges that the student faces both at school and home; and how to improve their school success. It also provides the family with a better perspective as to how their child functions in a school setting.

## When do you need to have a parent-teacher conference?

The general rule is three times within the school year. First, in the beginning to introduce yourself and the child to the teacher. This can be in a group setting such as an Open House or Meet the Teacher Night. The second would be mid year to review goals met and those needing to be addressed. Finally, at the end of the school year. Additionally, if there has been a traumatic event that impacted your family (a lifestyle change, such as a marriage, divorce, new sibling, or home move) or if your child has developed a concerning or disruptive behavior which has lasted more than two full weeks.

## Be prepared

Parents play an important role in the success of a school conference. The teacher will come prepared with materials to share with you about your child and their time at school. Still, you too should be prepared to share information about your family, culture, traditions, practices, and beliefs. Have questions ready and be prepared to share the goals you have for your child. This will allow the teacher to map out your child's unique dynamics and recognize if there is a need for additional support services or resources that could benefit you or them.



## Resources

NAEYC <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/topics/family-engagement>

NAEYC <https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/building-partnership-your-childs-teacher>

KIDSHEALTH <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/parent-conferences.html#:~:text=A%20parent%2Dteacher%20conference%20is,needs%2C%20behaviors%2C%20and%20learning%20styles>

KIDSHEALTH <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/parent-teacher-conferences.html>

Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness <https://www.socialconnectedness.org/the-importance-of-parent-teacher-connections>