

The role of the parent during the Student-led Conference

Suggestions:

1. Attend the conference at the designated time.
2. Focus all of your attention on the child giving the conference. Avoid bringing younger children to your child's conference as this may distract from the process. If you cannot avoid this, ask the school if they have child care during the conference. If not, make sure your younger child behaves appropriately.
3. Make sure your child sees you "actively listening".
4. Give appropriate non-verbal responses to your child (smiles, nods, etc.)
5. Ask your child questions of explanation. Try not to interrupt your child with too many statements.
6. If your child asks you to write a letter, make every attempt to write the letter and return it by the due date. This letter is one of the most important parts of the student-led conference. It is an opportunity for you to tell your child in writing what you think of him/her and the effort he/she has put forth.

Questions:

What you might want to ask your child:

1. Share with me what you feel is your greatest accomplishment this year.
2. Why do you have so little evidence in your portfolio?
3. What are you most proud of in your portfolio?
4. What can I do at home to help you improve at school?
5. Do you think you have tried your hardest this year? Tell me why you feel this way.
6. What have you learned about yourself after doing the student-led conference?