

Twenty Ideas for Better Communication with Professionals

1. **Stop saying, “I’m just a parent”.**
2. When calling the school, ask people to identify themselves when giving you information.
3. **Never** send verbal messages by your child to the teacher or other school officials.
4. Being all allowed to take a test alone (vs. with the class)
5. Not having to copy homework off the board (get the assignments from the teacher)
6. Getting a syllabus for the week
7. Help a **child feel that they belong and contribute** to the class
8. **Modify assignments** to meet individual student need
9. **Divide longer assignments/projects into shorter ones**
10. Schedule complex activities in the morning when the student has more energy
11. **Call students by name frequently**
12. Highlight or underline important directions
13. **Provide opportunities for the student to help others**
14. Be mindful that some students are particularly sensitive to noise, sound, light, etc., and make the necessary accommodations (e.g., establish a quiet area to work or eat, seat student away from distracting sounds, **put student with other children hs/she trust and likes**)
15. **Allow the student choices** when possible
16. Refocus the student to task and reinforce with praise (**redirect troublesome behavior – redirect, refocus, reinforce, praise**)
17. Monitor frequently the student’s progress (identify areas where the student gets “stuck” and then develop a method of handling such points in the future)
18. Remember that **students learn in different** ways and that to use a multisensory approach (e.g., oral, visual, tactile, kinesics)
19. **Vary methods** for assessing knowledge (e.g., oral tests, short quizzes, new reports, interviews, group projects, etc.)
20. **Involve students** by utilizing role-playing activities,