

Family and Caregiver Discussion Guide with Educators and Schools



One indicator that has been found to be highly predictive of future reading difficulty is a family history of difficulty with reading and language development ([E2SSB 6162](#)).

Before speaking to your child's educator, support team, or school personnel, make sure to obtain any relevant information from your child's school. Relevant information may include information about the following areas:

- **Social Emotional Wellbeing:** Does your child feel like a valued member of the class community?
- **Physical Factors:** Can your child see and hear well enough to benefit from instruction?
- **Attendance and Discipline:** Could your child's literacy struggles be due to lack of access to instruction?

Kindergarten teachers can build upon the relationships developed from administering WaKIDS

Discussion Guidance for Students, Families and/or Caregivers before meeting with educators and school staff:

Below are ways to engage your child in preparation for the Family/Caregiver Discussion. This is an opportunity for you to learn more about your child's experience in school.

- Ask your child what subjects they like the most and the least and why.
- Ask your child how they feel about their teacher and their peers. Do they feel supported and welcomed in the classroom? Is there anything they would like support with outside of schoolwork?
- Review your child's academic progress, test scores, and attendance on your district's website or through other resources
- Make a list of questions you have and topics that you want to discuss with the teacher. Include things that might help them understand your child's challenges, strengths, and interests. Describe what you see as your child's strengths and explain where you think your child needs more help.
- Think about what you can tell teachers that will help them understand your child better, such as your child's favorite subjects, special interests or hobbies, medical conditions, family situation, or any problem that might affect learning, attendance, or behavior.



Discussion Guide for Parents and Caregivers*

Below are suggested questions for families/caregivers to use in their discussion with their child's teacher and/or school:

- What are the grade level expectations (academic standards)?
- What is the best way to communicate with the educator?
- How is my child doing? Is there anything you would like to share with me about what you have observed regarding my child since school started?
- How is my child doing socially and emotionally? Are you concerned about them in any way?
- How can I best support their social and emotional development at home?
- What is my child expected to learn, know, and do by the end of this grade, and is my child on target?
- How will my child's grades be calculated?
- Does my child have any outstanding assignments, and if so, can you please provide me a list of those assignments and a timeline of when they need to be submitted?
- What does my child do well, and what does my child struggle with? Can you give me examples?
- How do you know when my child is making progress and when they need additional help?
- What can I do to support my child?
- Are there online programs or services that could also help my child?

****Adapted from [New York City Department of Education](#)***