



FINDING THE WORDS: WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY

Building a strong partnership with your child's teacher starts with open communication. Conversations about concerns or challenges can feel uncomfortable. That's okay! Sometimes, simply starting the conversation can be the most important step.

You and your child's teacher bring different perspectives, and sharing those perspectives can lead to greater understanding and stronger support for your child. The sentence starters below are here to give you a place to begin. Use them as they are, make them your own, or simply let them inspire what you want to say. There is no perfect way to start a conversation. The goal is to keep the conversation open and work together.

Asking for Help for Your Child



"I am reaching out because I have noticed my child is struggling with..."

"I'm concerned about ___ and would appreciate your perspective."

"I've noticed that my child has been having some difficulty with ___. Can you help me understand what you're seeing at school?"

When You're Concerned About a Decision

"Can you help me understand how this decision was made?"

"What factors were considered when making this decision?"

"Could we talk about whether there are other options to consider?"



Your Words Don't Have to be Perfect!

You know your child best. It is okay to pause, ask questions, or take time to think before responding. The goal is not to have all the answers. It is to keep the conversation focused on understanding and supporting your child.





FINDING THE WORDS: WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY

When Challenges Arise



"My child shared ___ with me. Can you help me understand what happened?"

"I'm concerned about ___ and would like to work together to address it."

"I know these situations can be challenging. I'd like to find a solution together."

Clarifying Before Assuming

"My child mentioned something that I may not fully understand. Could you help provide context?"

"I wanted to ask about this directly before making assumptions."

"I know there may be different perspectives, and I would appreciate hearing yours."



When You Disagree



"I think about this a little differently based on what I'm seeing at home."

"I have some concerns about this approach and would like to talk them through."

"I value your experience, and I also want to advocate for what I believe my child needs."

When the Conversation Feels Difficult

"I know this may be a difficult conversation, but I'd like us to work together to support my child."

"I want to approach this conversation with an open mind. Can we talk about what you're seeing?"

"My goal is to understand what's happening and figure out how we can move forward together."

