



# BUILDING TRUST WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER

Trusting relationships between educators and families help students succeed. When families and teachers trust each other, they communicate better, collaborate more, and provide stronger support for learning.

Trust is built through small, consistent moments of connection. One way to build trust with your child's teacher is by aiming for a **5:1 ratio of positive to negative interactions**. This means that for every concern or tough conversation, it helps to have at least five positive interactions—like a thank you, a kind note, a quick check-in, or a celebration of something going well. Research shows this balance strengthens relationships, improves communication, and makes problem-solving easier when challenges come up.

This guide offers ideas for what to share, ask, and do to work toward the 5:1 ratio with your child's teacher. Focusing on these simple actions will help to build trust and create a productive partnership.

## SHARE WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER

### Check List



Your child's strengths and interests



What helps your child learn best



Who the important adults are in your child's life



The best way and time to reach you



Any challenges or learning differences

Your hopes and dreams for your child

How you would like to contribute to the classroom

Big changes or recent events in your child's life



RMFEC.ORG  
COACTIONCOLLECTIVE.COM



INFO@RMFEC.ORG  
HELLO@COACTIONCOLLECTIVE.COM



RMFEC  
COACTIONCOLLECTIVE

# ASK YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER



What's something you want families to know about your classroom?

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What does a typical day look like in your class?

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How can I be a helpful partner to you this year?

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Is there anything I should share about my child's learning style, personality, or experiences with school?

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What opportunities are there for me to be involved in the classroom or school community?

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What's something you wish all families understood about your role as a teacher?

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What's something that families have done in the past that you've really appreciated?

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How can I reinforce the values and expectations you set in your classroom?

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What can I can do—or avoid doing—to best support you?

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## BUILD TRUST THROUGH POSITIVE INTERACTIONS



Express appreciation for the teacher's hard work when something goes well—whether it's a positive moment your child experienced in class or progress they've made academically. Share a kind note, a quick message, or a word of thanks during pick-up or drop-off.



Take the time to reply to your child's teacher's newsletters or other communication they send home. It's a simple way to stay connected and sustain a positive relationship.



Make family (parent-teacher) conferences a priority to show you're an engaged partner in your child's learning and to build trust with their teacher. Can't make the scheduled time? Reach out to request one that works for you.



If you have concerns about something happening at school, reach out to your child's teacher first. Addressing issues directly helps keep communication clear and sustain trust.



When a teacher shares concerns or suggestions, listen with an open mind. Trust grows when both sides feel heard and respected.



Build trust with your child's teacher by offering small gestures of support—like volunteering for a classroom project, helping with an event or simply checking in to offer a listening ear.



Even small moments of interaction and collaboration can have a big impact! Building a **trusting relationship with your child's teacher** lays the foundation for a strong partnership. When families and teachers work together as a team, students don't just grow academically—they feel supported, understood, and more confident every step of the way.

