

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILDREN IN SCHOOL: SIX STEPS FOR ASKING BETTER QUESTIONS

Today, we're going to work in a different way. You'll be coming up with questions about something that affects your child or your child's education. Asking your own questions can help you make your voice heard on behalf of your child and get more of the information you need. It can also help you communicate with the school and your child's teachers.

STEP 1: Name one thing about your child or child's education that you want to ask questions about:

Communication / sharing information	Dropout prevention
Curriculum content	Mental health services
Individualized Education Program (IEP)	Discipline policies
Providing a safe learning environment	After school activities
Other:	

STEP 2: Ask as many questions as you can about the topic you chose

- Do not stop to judge or try to answer the questions
- Write down the question exactly as it comes to mind
- Make sure you are only asking questions

Write your questions on the next page.

Topic: _____

My list of questions:

STEP 3: Find two kinds of questions on your list

- Closed-ended: Can be answered with a “yes” or “no” or one word answer. Label them with a C.
- Open-ended: these questions need an explanation and can't be answered with “yes” or “no” or one word. Label them with an O.

You can change the questions from closed to open or from open to closed to get different information.

STEP 4: Find some priority questions

Choose the three most important questions you would like to get answers to first. Mark them with an “X.” These are your priority questions.

STEP 5: Check your three priority questions

Do you want to change any of them to get different information? If so, write your changes beside or below the question you want to change.

STEP 6: Reflect

You used some specific steps for coming up with your own questions. What did you learn? How can you use what you learned?