

Learning Coach Series

Module 2

**Develop a strong, comfortable working relationship
with your child's IHLA teacher(s).**

Introduction

Children learn more when the parent and teacher are working together—and the child knows it! The child hears the same messages and benefits from the consistency. As parent and teacher work together, the child sees a practical, working example of how adults problem solve together.

Here are some positive ideas to remember as you communicate with your child's teachers.

1. For each of your child's subjects, have the teacher help you understand

1. the curriculum,
2. the "learning blocks,"
3. the "power learning goals" (PLG),
4. how your child's learning will be measured, and
5. the criteria for awarding grades.

2. Tips for talking with IHLA teachers.

1. Be respectful of their time and the complexity of their job.
2. Before you talk with a teacher, be sure to carefully review your child's school work, assignments, grades, and progress reports. Talk with your child about his progress.
3. It may help if you prepare by writing down important questions or concerns, so you have some reminders as you talk with the teacher.
4. Consider having your child with you for important conversations with teachers. As children get older, this may become more and more helpful.
5. Discuss specific examples of your child's work, rather than talking in general terms about progress or performance.
6. Ask how the teacher evaluates student work and gives grades.

7. Share things about your child that you think will help the teacher.
8. Tell teachers you are not there to criticize or find fault, but to work *with* them to give your child the best experience possible.
9. Ask what you can do to help your child be more successful with school work.
10. Always begin and end a meeting by thanking them for what they do for your child.
11. If you make plans or agreements with the teacher, be sure to write them down. Share them with your child as much as possible.



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Every teacher has slightly different ways of doing things. One teacher will likely focus on different pieces of the curriculum than another, give different kinds of assignments, evaluate student work in different ways, and so on. So, it is important to get answers to those kinds of questions by reading course materials and instructions, and in general just getting to know each teacher as an individual. Your ability to discuss specifics about your child's performance and problem solve with the teacher in a comfortable way may turn out to be a huge benefit to your child.