

Meeting the Parents

Remember:

Parents have first-hand experience and information about their child.

Parents want to do the best they can for their children.

Parents almost always want to co-operate with the school.

Parents always are willing to help their child if they can see the benefits of doing so.

Parents can bring about great benefits to their child's education.

Parents are the most important educators.

Parents may feel insecure about their ability to help the child and this may be seen through anger directed at school and criticism of what is happening.

Parents may be unwilling to accept that their child has SEN.

Parents may be unable to see the teacher's point of view.

Helpful Hints

Make sure there is a good communication system in place. For children with special educational needs there may be a need for a daily diary or space in homework notebook for comments.

Prepare for parental interviews with evidence to support what you have to say.

Begin by discussing child's strengths.

In simple terms explain the nature of any difficulties and what you have done to help.

Ask if parents have noticed any problems and if so, can they think what might be contributing to these.

Suggest possible approaches you and they could put into action to try to help child.

Give parent opportunity to voice concerns and make suggestions; record these and agree on plan of action.

Be straight with parents; don't make subjective comments or use technical words.

Be positive; show how child has met previous targets and how you plan to help him meet future targets.