

DLC, Skid Row, Los Angeles

Benefit of communicating with your student's teacher....

Kyrell, 8, attends the Downtown Learning Center on skid row. Like many other kids, Kyrell walks into the learning center and claims he has no homework. His backpack is empty, so his tutor believes him. The next day his teacher calls School on Wheels. Kyrell has lied and has not been turning in his assignments. After one phone call, Kyrell's teacher, father, and tutor are on the same page. In just two days, Kyrell's vocabulary has improved. It will make a big difference to your student when he or she realizes that his or her teacher, parent and tutor are working together. By contacting his or her teacher, you are showing your student that you truly care about his or her success in school.



Tips for effective tutor-teacher communication:

1. Write a note. If you have a quick question, put it in writing and ask your student to deliver it. Ask the teacher to send her response with your student. You can also use a note to try to set up a phone meeting. Let the teacher know when and where you can be reached.
2. Make a date. To get an in-depth review, schedule a time to meet during the teacher's office hours. Most teachers try to make themselves available before or after school, or during lunch. Spending 30 minutes talking with your student's teacher will ensure he or she stays on track.
3. E-mail. Many schools are now online. If your student's is, you can email the teacher. E-mail is a great way to communicate with teachers for quick updates.
4. Ask for the teacher's home/cell phone number and/or e-mail address. Some teachers will give you this information with the understanding that you contact them at home only if it's an emergency. Assure the teacher that you will keep the information private.

Questions to ask:

Find out what is being covered, as well as how your student is doing on assignments and tests, with questions like: What topics are being covered this month in class? What types of homework and projects should I expect my student to be working on?

Is my student enthusiastic about the subject matter being covered? If not, are there other topics that have sparked my student's interest? Does my student participate in class? Does my student ask questions or take part in group activities?

If you are having trouble reaching your student's teacher, please contact your Regional Coordinator and we will be glad to help.

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