

Positive Communication Starters

Gentle ways to start conversations that build trust between home and school.

Purpose

It's easy to feel nervous when contacting a teacher — especially if your child is struggling or if you're unsure how to phrase your message. This checklist offers gentle, positive ways to start conversations that invite collaboration instead of defensiveness. Each sentence frame helps you share observations, ask for insight, and express appreciation — turning communication into connection.

1. Sharing Observations

- I've noticed ___ at home — have you seen this too?
- Lately, ___ seems a little more confident with reading; does that match what you're seeing?
- When we read together, ___ really enjoys stories about ___.
- I've noticed that decoding longer words can still feel tough — is there something specific we can try together?

Why it works: It shows curiosity instead of judgment and signals partnership.

2. Asking for Guidance or Reinforcement

- Can you share how I can reinforce ___ at home?
- What kind of prompts or support seem to work best for ___ during reading?
- We've been trying ___ at home — does that align with what you're doing in class?
- If there's a small way I can help build consistency, please let me know.

Why it works: Teachers appreciate when parents focus on shared goals and follow-through.

3. Celebrating Effort & Gratitude

- We're celebrating ___ at home; thank you for your support!
- ___ felt so proud after your feedback about their progress — it meant a lot.
- Thank you for noticing ___'s effort; that encouragement really sticks.
- We've seen such a positive shift since you introduced ___ — thank you for everything you do.

Why it works: Positive feedback nurtures goodwill and reminds teachers that their efforts matter.

“ Partnerships grow stronger when communication is kind, curious, and consistent. ”