

Download 1.4: Communication Starters

Stay Connected • Words That Bloom



When home and school stay connected, children feel supported, understood, and encouraged on every side. These ready-to-use conversation openers make communication feel lighter and more natural. Check off each starter once you've used it. Adapt the words to make them your own.

1 Sharing What You're Noticing at Home

Open the door with a gentle observation — no agenda, just connection.

- "I wanted to share something from reading time this week — [name] has been drawn to [topic] and I thought you'd find it interesting."
- "I've been keeping a few observations at home and thought they might be helpful for you. Is now a good time to share?"
- "Something came up at home I thought was worth mentioning — I'm not sure if you're seeing the same thing, but I noticed..."
- "I've been trying [approach] at home and [name] seems to respond really well. I wondered if you've seen that too."

■ **TIP** Observations work best when they're specific and curious, not evaluative. 'I noticed...' is always softer than 'I... think there's a problem with...'

2 Asking for Guidance

Position yourself as a partner who wants to learn — teachers love this.

- "I'd love your advice on how to support [name] at home. What's working well in class that I could mirror at home?"
- "What are you seeing in class right now that I could reinforce at home? I want us working together, not sending mixed messages."
- "Could you help me understand what [name] is working on so I can follow your lead at home? I want to support, not complicate things."
- "If you could recommend one small thing I could do consistently at home right now, what would make the biggest difference?"

■ **TIP** Asking 'what would you recommend?' signals respect for the teacher's expertise and makes collaboration feel like a... genuine partnership.



4

Expressing a Concern Gently

Raise worries as questions, not accusations — it keeps the conversation open.

- "I've noticed something at home and I'd love your perspective — I'm not sure if it's worth paying attention to, but [name] seems to be..."
- "I want to make sure I'm not overreacting, but I've been noticing that [name] [observation] — is that something you've seen too?"
- "Could we find a few minutes to connect? I'd rather bring this up thoughtfully than fire off an email."
- "I'm coming to you first because I trust your perspective. I've been a little worried and I'd rather talk it through than sit with it alone."

■ **TIP** Starting with 'I've noticed...' or 'I'm wondering...' keeps the tone collaborative. Framing concerns as questions... invites the teacher in rather than putting them on the defensive.

5

Book & Reading-Specific Conversations

Bridge the gap between what's happening at home and in class.

- "[Name] has become completely absorbed in [book/series] at home. Are there books at school you'd recommend to keep that momentum going?"
- "We've been doing read-alouds at home and I'm noticing [name] really lights up at [theme/type of story]. Is that something you're seeing in class too?"
- "I'd love to know what [name] is reading at school so I can find related books at home. I want reading to feel connected, not separate."
- "We've hit a bit of reading resistance at home. Have you noticed anything similar, or do you have a sense of what might help spark things again?"

■ **TIP** Reading conversations are some of the easiest to start because they're naturally positive. A quick 'she loved this... book!' message opens more doors than you'd expect.

6

Following Up After a Conversation

Closing the loop shows you listened — and builds trust over time.

- "I wanted to check in after we last spoke — here's what I've noticed since then: [observation]. I'm curious whether you're seeing the same shift."
- "We tried what you suggested and I wanted to share how it went. [What happened] — thank you for the recommendation, it really helped."
- "I'm still thinking about what you said about [name] and had a follow-up question when you have a moment — no rush at all."
- "Has anything shifted on your end since we last connected? Even a sentence or two would mean a lot."

■ **TIP** Following up — even briefly — tells the teacher that you took the conversation seriously. It's one of the simplest... ways to build a lasting partnership.

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You don't need the perfect words. You just need to show up — curious, open, and focused on what's best for your child.

— Words That Bloom