

STAPLE #M7 | Make Positive Contact with Parents

It is essential to communicate with parents throughout the year. **Making Positive Contact with Parents** keeps them aware of your desire to partner with them in their child's education.

SETUP

- 1. Set up a Contact log of all communications with stakeholders.
 - Email, Planners, Phone Apps, Parent Conferences, etc.
- 2. Set up a monthly calendar of pre-planned positive phone calls for parents.
- 3. Respond to all parent phone calls within 48 hours of the initial call.
- 4. Poll parents on how they would like to receive monthly and weekly communications.
 - Email, planner, Phone App (Class Dojo, Remind 101, etc.), text message.

ACTIVITY

- 1. Greet the parent/guardian with a positive/supportive tone.
 - Example "Hello Mr./Ms. _____, how are you doing today?"
- 2. Write down what you would like to say to the parent. This will allow you to be objective in what areas the student is meeting or not meeting expectations.
- 3. Start with a positive note about the student.
 - Even if the student did something wrong, starting with a positive message will help the parent feel like you are not attacking them or their child.
 - Do not include negative statements such as:
 - "your child is bad."
 - "they are getting on my nerves."
 - Rearrange negative comments to corrective statements (see the 4:1 Feedback document).
- 4. Listen to the concerns of the parent/guardian.

CLOSING

- 1. Final Steps:
 - End the conversation by thanking the parent/guardian for their support.
 - Keep the focus on collaboration.
- 2. Follow-Up:
 - Keep administration informed of any meaningful conversations with parents/guardians.
 - Include a 3rd party (teacher/counselor/admin) for conversations that need an additional set of ears in case it becomes heated.