



**Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga**
Ministry of Education

Preparing for parent-teacher interviews–New Zealand Curriculum

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Transcriber's Note: The logo at the top of the page is: Te
Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga–Ministry of Education

Preparing for parent-teacher interviews–New Zealand Curriculum

Information to help you make the most of your time at parent-teacher interviews to discuss your child's learning and wellbeing.

There is a video on the page. Watch it here:

<https://vimeo.com/1069436005> or short url:

<https://tinyurl.com/wdfjywmd> This video might not be accessible.

Building relationships and understanding progress

Parent-teacher interviews provide a valuable opportunity for you to build positive relationships with teachers to support your child's learning and wellbeing. These conversations help you to understand your child's progress, identify strengths and areas for improvement and explore ways to support learning at home.

You child's school may name this meeting differently.

Preparing for meeting with a teacher can help you have meaningful and useful conversations. Use the following guidance to make the most of these opportunities.

Before a parent-teacher interview

Start by understanding the purpose of the meeting. It might be to:

- meet the teacher and set goals
- find out about your child's mid-year progress and celebrate successes.

Read your child's latest school report and the curriculum year-by-year learning guides for their year level. Write down any questions or important information about your child's learning and wellbeing to discuss with the teacher.

Talk with your child about:

- what they want the teacher to know about them
- things they like about school
- things they do not enjoy or find difficult
- any worries or concerns they have about school that they would like you to discuss.

Share information with your child's teacher

Parent-teacher interviews don't just have to be about learning. If you have concerns about your child's behaviour or wellbeing, the interview is a good place to connect with the teacher about your concerns. This gives you a new perspective from someone who is also with your child every day.

If your child struggles with learning, behaviour or wellbeing, you don't have to wait for a parent-teacher interview to talk to their teacher. You also don't have to feel embarrassed or ashamed. Teachers work with a variety of students and are professionally trained to help get the best out of each student.

Schools encourage families to be part of the learning team—remember, you know your child best.

It helps the teacher if they know what else might be happening for your child. Provide the teacher with any information that could help them better understand or assist your child, including health issues, life changes or learning difficulties.

Ask about what supports the school can offer, and who they might be able to refer you to if appropriate. Establish clear action items and then set a date to check back on them.

Set goals

As a team around your child, you can set goals and discuss strategies that the teacher will use at school and strategies you could try at home.

Remember that learner confidence is a big part of success, so choose small goals that can be achieved quickly, and encourage your child to think positively about their learning.

“Nurture the seed and it will blossom.”

Wellbeing for younger students

When encouraging wellbeing for younger students, schools emphasise social skills, emotional awareness and self-management. These are often tied to school values and expectations are reinforced in and out of the classroom. If students find these things difficult, there will be systems and processes—first in the classroom and then across the school—to help them.

Many schools operate a school-wide programme that recognises and rewards positive behaviour across the school. In individual classes, teachers can focus on supporting more specific wellbeing and learning needs.

For students in Years 0 to 3, this support may look like:

- being assigned a buddy to help with socialisation and friendships
- working in small groups to play games and practice social skills
- participating in a class reward system
- using specialised equipment for learning, like pencil grips or audiobooks
- having a visual timetable, or being assigned to special roles in the classroom to help self-manage and understand school routines
- taking part in mindfulness activities or programmes that help with self-esteem, friendships and emotional regulation.

How to find support for your child's wellbeing

Identify the person within the school responsible for wellbeing, and the process for contacting them if you are concerned. Make sure your child knows how to access this support independently, too. It's important that you keep your child informed and involved in this support team.

Talk to them about any discussions you have with the school and any agreed steps moving forward.

Year-by-year learning information for Years 0 to 8

Years 0 to 3

For information about what they will be learning, go to our New Zealand Curriculum year-by-year learning guide:

<https://www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-caregivers/schools-year-0-13/parent-portal/guide-for-the-new-zealand-curriculum-years-0-to-8> or shortened url <https://tinyurl.com/23hbf5se>

Things to discuss

With your child's teacher, you may wish to discuss:

- your child's phonics check (Years 0 and 1)—if your child hasn't completed one yet, ask the teacher when they will

- how you can support your child with structured literacy—if you are not sure what this is, talk to the teacher and ask them to explain it
- how you can support your child with maths.

Years 4 to 6

For information about what they will be learning, go to our New Zealand Curriculum year-by-year learning guide:

<https://www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-caregivers/schools-year-0-13/parent-portal/guide-for-the-new-zealand-curriculum-years-0-to-8> or shortened url <https://tinyurl.com/23hbf5se>

Things to discuss

With your child's teacher, you may wish to discuss:

- your child's oral language, reading and writing progression
- your child's maths and statistics learning progression.

Find out whether there is something more you can do to support your child at home by asking:

- "If my child is making lower than expected progress, what can I do, and what can the school do?"
- "If my child is making greater than expected progress, what can I do, and what can the school do?"

Years 7 to 8

For information about what they will be learning, go to our New Zealand Curriculum year-by-year learning guide:

<https://www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-caregivers/schools-year-0-13/parent-portal/guide-for-the-new-zealand-curriculum-years-0-to-8> or shortened url <https://tinyurl.com/23hbf5se>

Things to discuss

You may wish to discuss your child's maths and statistics learning progression. Find out whether there is something more you can do to support your child at home by asking:

- "If my child is making lower than expected progress, what can I do, what can the school do?"
- "If my child is making greater than expected progress, what can I do, what can the school do?"

Discuss next steps

At your parent-teacher interview, you can discuss subject choices and options when they start Year 9. This includes the school's plans for transition to high school.

After a parent-teacher interview

After the parent-teacher interview, talk with your child. Discuss their progress and next steps and celebrate their achievements.

Support your child's learning at home by acting on the ideas discussed at the parent-teacher interview. You can also use the suggestions provided in the curriculum year-by-year learning guides.

If you still have questions or points to discuss, ask your child's teacher for another meeting or a phone conversation.

For more information visit:

<https://www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-caregivers/schools-year-0-13/parent-portal/preparing-parent-teacher-interviews-new-zealand-curriculum> or shortened URL: <https://tinyurl.com/bdkekcwt>

End of Preparing for parent-teacher interviews–New Zealand Curriculum