

Parents Ask Us About...

PARENT CONFERENCES

Frequent communication between school and home is important in building a partnership between parents and teachers. Parents and teachers have had many opportunities for informal contacts since September: brief conversations at arrival and departure times, phone calls, notes, newsletters and educational meetings. Now it's time for formal parent/teacher conferences.

Our teachers have extensive experience and the classroom setting from which to make observations. In preparation for the conference, teachers focus on all areas of development - social relationships, emotional development, physical functioning, self-esteem, intellectual development, and communication skills. The conference might also include other communication - special abilities and creative talents which teachers have spotted, description of a child's typical day, sharing of anecdotes, or questions about behavior or development.

Teachers want to hear about your observations and suggestions and be prepared to discuss any questions and concerns you might have. Please help us by completing the attached form and returning it to your child's teacher no later than February 9.

Additional information about conferences

1. Teachers are preparing for conferences with the parents of all 3-and 4-year-old children. Many of these will be scheduled on Friday, February 18, or on Monday, February 21. These are designated on our school calendar as conference days, and **school will be closed**. Remaining conferences will be scheduled at additional times. Parents of children who enrolled late in the school year will have conferences later in the spring.
2. Watch for schedules on the door bulletin boards or a note or a phone call from your child's teacher. We know that work schedules may not be flexible, but we are delighted when both parents can make arrangements to be present. A typical conference lasts about twenty-five minutes.
3. **No child care will be available.** Please make your own arrangements since children do not attend conferences.
4. There is no reason to worry about the conference or to worry your child in anticipating the conference. We want you to relax and look forward to mutual sharing of observations and ideas which will benefit your child.
5. Please use the school phone as your emergency number (713-666-1111) because we ask that all cell phones be turned off during conferences.

ONE FINAL NOTE: During conferences teachers share insights about your child only. If parents discuss conferences and pass along information about children or make comparisons, families and children are sometimes inadvertently hurt. Please respect this confidentiality as you visit with friends during our conference time.

School for Little Children

Bellaire United Methodist
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**School for Little Children
Bellaire United Methodist Church**

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