

# Parent-Teacher Meeting

Fixit and Knack are anxious about the upcoming parent-teacher meeting at school. They have never gone to one and they are not sure what will happen. By watching an old-fashioned educational film they learn more.

**Narrated Message //** *Parents have a lot of valuable information to share with the school about their children. Sometimes meeting with school staff can make parents and families nervous because of bad memories of residential schools, worrying about discrimination or about not being understood because of language. It takes a whole village to raise a child. Our children's education is an important process that is shared between home, school and the community. Sometimes it can be hard to make sure that our children's needs and interests are looked after. There are programs and community supports for First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples that can help us to meet those needs. Meetings with our children's teachers have a real impact on our children's lives—they can help improve their chances of success on all fronts.*

## IDEAS

- Practical problems may make it difficult to go to the school (for example, work, transportation, child care). Nervousness about going to the school and talking to teachers and other school staff may also play a part.
- Children may not want their parents to be involved at school. Talking to children about school meetings in a positive way to make changes that are good for them can help.
- Schools can share information about parent-teacher meetings—what they are for, how they work. Families can learn about the importance of these meetings on children's success at school.
- Schools and parents can discuss shared, realistic high expectations for children.
- Finding ways to get involved: trying to go to as many school activities as possible, visiting the school's website often, using the school agenda to learn more about activities and your children's school life.
- Feeling free to ask for another time to talk to teachers or other school staff as needed—in person or on the phone.

## QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

### Family Members

1. What are some of the messages in this film?
2. How can attending parent-teacher meetings be important for student success? What additional questions do you have about these meetings?
3. Would you like to have more time to talk to your children’s teachers or other school staff?
4. Who at the school might have more information about your child? How would you get this information?
5. Do you have any suggestions or personal stories to share?

### School Staff and Community Leaders

1. Why is it important for parents to attend parent-teacher meetings?
2. Which factors reduce attendance at parent-teacher meetings?
3. How can the school encourage parents to attend parent-teacher meetings?
4. What might support parent and teacher communication to enhance student success?
5. Are there Aboriginal families at your school that may require particular encouragement or information? What are positive practices that could be developed and put in place?
6. What additional responses and strategies might further support and meet the specific needs of Aboriginal children and family members?