

Working Together, Learning from Each Other

Toof is struggling with an arithmetic problem. Knack wants to help but is also having trouble with it. Knack meets with the teacher and makes a connection between traditional knowledge and the textbook, and is now able to help Toof, to everyone's satisfaction.

Narrated Message // *There are many ways of learning. We learn through our culture, the land, our stories and by working together. We can also work with teachers to improve our children's education at school. If we share our ways of learning with our children's teachers we can help them understand our culture better and the ways in which our children learn from us. In turn, we can learn ourselves how to best help support our children's academic success. A partnership between home and school can improve our children's well-being, in school and in general. Working together we can create a healthy learning and living environment.*

IDEAS

- Sharing the importance of helping children with school work.
- Asking teachers and school staff for help and feeling comfortable doing it. Checking in with teachers about the best ways to help children with their homework. Knowing more about expectations, learning goals, teaching ways to take action and the curriculum (what is being taught).
- Considering different skills and talents family members have that might help to make a child successful at school.
- Exploring online tools and community resources to help children with their homework.

QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

Family Members

1. What are some of the messages in this film?
2. What are other ways that parents and teachers might work together to help students when they are struggling with school work?
3. Would you like to have more time to work with teachers or other school staff to work on this?
4. How could you know more about your children's school work and school life?
5. Are there things that the school might do to help you get more information or support?
6. Do you have any suggestions or personal stories to share?

School Staff and Community Leaders

1. Why might parents and family members need to get help with their children's school work?
2. How can we help parents to feel more comfortable reaching out to us?
3. What are other mechanisms that might support parent and teacher collaboration and enhance student success?
4. Are there Aboriginal families at your school that require particular encouragement or ways to take action for supporting their children?
5. How can the teacher or the school help enhance parents' confidence and motivation to help their children with school work?
6. What additional responses and strategies might further support and meet the specific needs of Aboriginal children and family members?