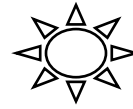


Section for Parents and Caregivers The Roles of Schools and Families



The DVD chapter on the role of schools and families addresses the following topics:

- The role of the teacher across cultures
- The challenges involved in positive parent-teacher communication
- The strategies for building cross-cultural understanding
- The need for diversity in school staff
- The importance for administration to act as role models for teachers to create good parent-teacher relationships

Questions to consider before viewing:

- What do you consider the role of the teacher to be?
- What do you think the role of the teacher is in Canada?
- What do you consider the role of the parent to be?
- What do you think the role of the parent is in Canada?
- How could any differences be worked out?
- What would help you understand the differences between your culture and Canadian culture?

Questions to consider after viewing:

- In the video, what kinds of expectations did parents have of teachers in their home country?
- How are these views the same or different from what you expect from teachers?
- What is the role of the educator in Canada?
- What is the role of the parent in Canada?
- How can educators help parents understand the teacher's role?
- How can educators help parents understand their expectations of parents?
- How can you improve your understanding of the teacher's role and your role in Canada?

Activity: Understanding the Roles of Teachers and Parents

Time: 15-20 minutes

Materials: Pen/pencil, “Checklist for Parents and Caregivers”¹ handout

Objectives: To determine what strategies you have tried with your child’s teacher. To determine what strategies are available to you in establishing communication with the teacher.

Procedure: On the “Checklist for Parents and Caregivers,” put an (X) in the box beside the strategies that you have already tried. Add any missing strategies to the bottom of the checklist. Look at the boxes that are empty. Do you feel comfortable trying these unmarked suggestions? Why or why not? What supports would you need to try these suggestions? Discuss possible strategies with other parents and caregivers in the room.

¹This checklist was adapted from: Flett, A., & Conderman, G. (2001). Enhance the involvement of parents from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. *Intervention in School and Clinic*, 37(1), 53-55.

Checklist for Parents and Caregivers

Here is a list of suggestions to help you improve cross-cultural communication with your child's teacher and school.

Put an (X) in the box if you have tried the strategy.

- Explained the role of the teacher in your home country to your child's teacher.
- Shared your personal beliefs and the expectations of a school teacher.
- Shared information about your family's culture.
- Listened to what your child's teacher had to say about his or her role as the teacher.
- Thought about how your expectations were different from what the teacher said he or she could do.
- Asked for an interpreter. You may understand English well, but you may need an interpreter to help share necessary information with your child's teacher.
- Asked the teacher what he/she expects from you as a parent.
- Listened to what your child's teacher had to say about his or her expectations of you.