

# The EDVANCE Times

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## Mentor Corner

*Gender Neutral Activities*

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## The Chairman's Note

It has been an exciting and eventful year for us at Edvance, packed with fresh initiatives and welcome news for parents.

While many new pre-schools are on the anvil, I am delighted to announce the launch of Vivero International Pre-school and Child Care Centre in the city of Hyderabad. The unique and world class centre is situated in a sleek 9000 sq ft 5 storey building, conveniently located in the heart of Hi-Tech city near HICC with easy connectivity to major IT hubs, hospitals and residential areas.

This is the ideal school for young parents employed at offices at Hi-tech, charming and close enough, but away from the hustle and bustle of traffic, noise and pollution. More than anything, we facilitate and encourage young mothers to join the work force again.

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## The Inside Scoop

*Vivero launches in Hyderabad*



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## Event Report

*Back to School*



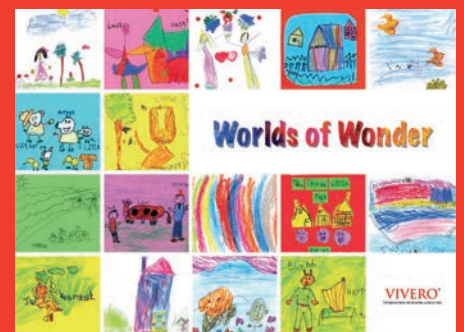
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A positive school - family relationship is strengthened when parents understand the philosophy and rationale of our strong transdisciplinary play-based curriculum.

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## What's the Buzz

*Worlds of Wonder*



When young children express their emotions, vivid imaginations and ideas, it makes for profound stories. To value this unique vision and creative potential of children as they express themselves, 'Worlds of Wonder' is our first publication. It is a compilation of stories and graphics written and illustrated by the children of KI and KII class at Vivero schools. These stories reveal the authentic voices and embody the children's social and emotional health and present a clear snapshot of their private environments.

This book is special and exclusive as it reflects the intellectual prowess of children that is hard to be captured through mundane techniques.

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## HR Movements

Edvance's most recent updates on new recruitments, promotions and developments that help retain and sustain a highly qualified, experienced and diverse work force.

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## Parent Chronicles

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## Keep in Touch

Participating in a parent teacher meeting is a great way to help your child succeed at school. Whether the child is just starting school or heading to kindergarten next year, parents and teachers share important developmental information in face-to face interactions.

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## The Chairman's Note

Dear Parents,

It has been an exciting and eventful year for us at Edvance, packed with fresh initiatives and welcome news for parents.

While many new pre-schools are on the anvil, I am delighted to announce the launch of Vivero International Pre-school and Child Care Centre in the city of Hyderabad. The unique and world class centre is situated in a sleek 9000 sq ft 5 storey building, conveniently located in the heart of Hi-Tech city near HICC with easy connectivity to major IT hubs, hospitals and residential areas. This is the ideal school for young parents employed at offices at Hi-tech, charming and close enough, but away from the hustle and bustle of traffic, noise and pollution. More than anything, we facilitate and encourage young mothers to join the work force again.

The new Maternity Bill has paved the way to empower women and foster gender strength. Without a doubt, young and highly educated mothers need all the support possible to return to satisfying careers, and thus, while large corporate offices and multinationals are tailoring existing policies and streamlining HR programmes, Edvance is bridging the gap by operating ECCE (Early Childhood Care and Education) centres that provide children with a safe, warm and nurturing environment.

As we reach out to a growing community of young parents and their circles of influence, I would wish to reinforce and reassure you all, that your child's holistic development is at the core of all learning in our centres. Our teachers, our parents and our centres form the triangular bedrock and cornerstone for making the learning process of our children exciting, inspiring and satisfying. I wish you a Happy Dussehra!

Dr. Arun Arora  
Chairman, Edvance Group

## Mentor Corner

### *Gender Neutral Activities*

Young children learn gender norms at an early age and tend to bring them into their school environment. Play activities end up reinforcing that. When children play by themselves, they tend to choose activities that are stereotypically aligned with their gender. And when they play with other children, gender also affects how they play. Research also states that while boys and girls naturally play together as toddlers, by the time they reach kindergarten they are spending very little of their playtime with children of the opposite sex. At Vivero & Serra, we therefore recognize and accommodate this development by planning intentional gender

neutral activities.

Our facilitators design engagements that are inclusive. Both, the boys and girls are introduced to the same learning engagements. They are given the choice to explore possibilities. This exposure helps the child understand and respect various roles in the society. They inherit the ability to stay away from stereotyping and are open to renewed perspectives on gender roles. Such a mindset contributes to the building of responsible global citizens, those who strive to explore gender identity through introspection of various viewpoints.

A super hero by a kitchen set or a doll set with block

play are some examples tailored to the resources at our disposal. A few activities to encourage the children to do chores around the house regardless of their gender are also organized. They are sensitized that washing, drying of clothes, cooking, washing the dishes and going to office, playing different sports has no gender barrier. This outlook helps the child relate to gender issues in society in a compassionate manner. They are able to understand that there are no clear lines drawn for behaviour and appearance of either of them, thus growing in respect and appreciation of their peers.



Playing Basketball in the outdoors



Participating in role playing the daily chores of a household



Dressing up the doll



Exploring balance and agility through an Obstacle Race



Exploring their taste buds by creating their own sandwiches



Decorating dresses for the paper dolls created by them



Hosting a Chinese Tea Party



Building blocks during Construction play



Exploring sense of taste while making lemonade

## Safety Measures

### First Aid Training

Handling children is a delicate exercise, and more so, when emergencies arise. It is therefore mandatory for our staff to be aware of and be trained in dealing with a variety of emergencies. It is mandatory for all our staff members at Serra International and Vivero International to undergo the First Aid training course which equips them to effectively manage common medical emergencies involving young children. Recognizing any untoward symptoms or issues is the first step, and knowing how to deal with them calmly and knowledgeably is key to effective management of emergencies. We partner with reputed Health care practitioners to train our teachers and care-givers.



Mr. Sumith Shah from Think Health Solutions conducted an extensive session on guiding the staff members at Pune to give immediate aid to children at the time of emergency.



Teachers of Vivero International, Bengaluru attending a First Aid Training session by Dr. Savannah Rao at Sakra Hospital



Teachers at Vivero International, Mumbai receiving hands on training for dealing with an emergency situation

## Fire Drill

As the well-known saying goes, "there is no substitute for practice" and "practice makes perfect" - and fire drills are no exception. Performing a fire drill gives our children and staff members the chance to practice the instructions for fire safety and evacuation. The aim of this drill is to make the staff members and children aware of various fire hazards

and how to prevent them in the early stage.

At a recent fire-drill training session, all members of staff received instructions with regard to their specific roles and responsibilities in the event of any emergency. Teachers were given hands-on training on fighting fires using different types of extinguishers. Various types of extinguishers were discussed

along with their operation. It simultaneously also gave an opportunity to teachers to check and memorize fire exit layout of their respective centre. This experience has helped the staff members be a part of emergency response team. Children too learnt some valuable lessons in safety measures.



The School head conducting the Fire Drill at Vivero International, Bengaluru



At our Pune School, an expert was invited to familiarize the staff members with using the fire extinguisher



An expert demonstrating the fire extinguisher at Vivero International, Mumbai

## Serra Child Care Training

A special childcare training was organized at the Aundh centre, Pune in the benefit of all our childcare supervisors, teachers and nurses. The aim of this training was to enlighten them all on essentials of a childcare centre, environment, processes and policies of a childcare centre, menu plan and the importance of a childcare communication book, newsletters, portfolio files and High Tea conversations.

The quality and standards of care, development and learning are determined by the quality of training

received by early childhood teachers. Teachers with specialized training in child development are able to create a warm and conducive learning environment to develop children's social and emotional competencies and nurture their love for learning.

Ms. Rakhi Singh, Vice President-Operations conducted a session on guiding teachers for personality development, qualities and importance of being an affectionate and empathetic human being. Teachers were also oriented through a typical day at childcare and nuances of simultaneously engaging

children with varied age groups.

A session by Aleme Avni, an experienced Counselor was also arranged. She addressed the challenges of labeling children and their implications, effective diffusers and shared a number of case studies followed by an Open Forum for discussion and queries.

Teachers also got an opportunity to share their experiences and were taken on a tour to visit the childcare section at the host school.



## The Inside Scoop

### Corporate Tie-ups

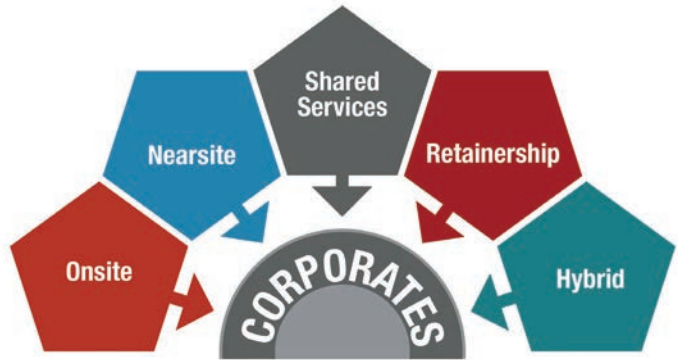
The reality of our times is resulting in a constant struggle for many young parents to balance their lives between the growing demands of a workplace, and concurrently being satisfied about the welfare of their children while they are away at work. With the Maternity Bill coming into effect, large corporate offices and multinationals are working towards empowering women and achieving gender equality. This has inspired companies around the world to tailor existing policies and programmes - or establish new ones - to realize women's empowerment and bring women back after maternity leave. Besides revising paid maternity leave to 26 weeks from 12 weeks earlier, the new law mandates that companies with more than 50 employees provide a Childcare or Crèche facility within a prescribed distance from the workplace.

At Edvance, our aim is to encourage mothers to get back to the workplace by providing their children a safe, warm and nurturing environment. At all our childcare and pre-school facilities, we have a home away from home for children. Children attend a structured child care program that is designed age appropriately. Children

who avail these programs follow a specific routine of nutrition, activities, care and milestone development. Our child care program takes into account the individual needs to make sure each child receives the best care in a stimulating learning environment.

Children are exposed to various activities involving music, art, dance, outdoor play laying emphasis on gross motor development and engagements involving development of fine motor skills. These activities are followed as part of their child care routine and the parents are kept abreast of developments through detailed documentation, newsletters, updates and our mobile app that parents can download for updates & notification. Our rich learning environments filled with authentic experiences and open ended materials work towards enriching the child's learning and development.

We are working with various corporate offices and HR teams to bring high quality child care under various models for their employees. This is not only with respect to compliance but also to improve employee engagement and satisfaction and to encourage women to get back to into the work force in a stress free environment and increase overall productivity of the organization.



### Vivero launches in Hyderabad



We are proud to announce the launch of Vivero International Pre-school and Child Care Centre at Hyderabad.

The upcoming centre is conveniently located in the heart of Hi-Tech city near HICC with easy connectivity to major IT hubs, hospitals and residential areas, but still in the charming lane of Hitex, away from the hustle and bustle of traffic, noise and pollution.

The centre is a neatly tucked corner building of an airy, well-lit 9000 sq.ft. space. This five storey aesthetically designed building has state-of-the-art facilities, easy parking and access for parents coming from major residential areas to their work place. Every design element has been carefully thought while planning the space and classrooms for the children.

The Centre boasts of huge classrooms with an in-house kitchen which can provide wholesome and nutritious meals for children.

The natural light pouring from the windows in each room along with energy efficient lighting and air keeps children healthy and active.

The school will also have music and tech studios to encourage learning and curiosity of the young minds. The spaces are created to have a warm and welcoming environment for the children. School Head and PRM cabins on the ground floor ensures easy approach for the children, staff and parents. It gives us great pleasure to welcome this addition to the Vivero family.

## Event Report

### *Back to School*

The 'Back to School' event at Vivero International & Serra International was a great opportunity for parents to take a peek into their children's classrooms and get a better understanding of the daily routines, their child's teacher and be a part of all the fun and learning their children experience.

The fundamental basis of a positive school - family relationship is strengthened when parents understand the philosophy and rationale of Vivero's strong transdisciplinary play-based curriculum offered at our schools.

The children were thrilled to take their parents around the school and show them their classroom, their favourite corner, their friends and teachers. The parents were also encouraged to participate in the daily routines of a typical day along with their children. Parents were seen to be completely involved and it was evident that they thoroughly enjoyed their time at school with their child. A few exciting parent child activities like making discovery bottles, a music and movement session, creating family frames, photo-booths and so on, were also organized. It also gave parents an informal platform to interact with the teachers to learn about their child's learning and development.

### Back to School at Vivero International



Musical Adaptation of Goldilocks and the Three Bears



Children dramatizing a story for their parents



Children enjoying at the Photo Booth



Parents and Children creating Family Frames



Teacher engaging with the Parents and Children in a rhyme session

### Back to School at Serra International



Creating Memories at the Photo Booth



Parents and children engaged in creating name cards



Parents created a mobile for their children's classroom

## Chocolate Day

Serra International, Aundh, Pune celebrated World Chocolate Day with some special activities for children. World Chocolate Day is a toast to that wonderful snack that is a favourite around the world! A celebration gives everyone a reasonable reason to consume nice and delicious chocolates. Children were engaged in a fire less cooking experience

and whipped up chocolate treats like Oreo chocolate ball, Chocolate lollypop, Choco cookie, pudding and starry chocolates. They had different moulds and used different equipment to create the desired dish. The facilitator involved the children right from the process of collecting ingredients, exploring the kitchen tools, making the treats and

relishing their creation! Children had a wonderful time and were proud to share the treats with their friends.

They say that, All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt.



## Corn on the Cob

Rain seems to allure children, dancing in the rain is a favourite activity, and if that is not possible, watching the rains is an equal pleasure. They feel delighted about going for nature walks with their raincoats and gumboots on. Children keep looking around to spot snails and earth worms in the lawn.

With monsoon and pouring rain, comes the joy of having roasted corn on the cob! A 'Corn on the cob' day was organized at Vivero Powai, Mumbai and Vivero Manyata Tech Park, Bengaluru. Vivero, Kalyani Nagar, Pune celebrated a Pajama Party along with the Corn on the Cob day. They arranged for a corn vendor who enthusiastically demonstrated the process of roasting the corn. Children excitedly chose their corn cob, and apart from peeling the corn, they were acquainted with the terminology used to refer to the various parts of corn - 'corn silk', 'kernel' and 'husk'. Following this, the vendor roasted corn on the barbeque and served it to the children. The children were also served boiled corn and they explored the taste of roasted versus boiled corn. The children and the staff had a wholesome time enjoying the corn during the rains.



Children enjoying the corn at the Pajama Party



A child demonstrating how to peel the husk of the corn



Children tasting the sumptuous roasted corn



Children, exploring the texture of the Corn kernels

## *Furry Friends Fiesta*

“Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened.” - Anatole France

Children are naturally drawn to animals and interaction with animals is always a fun activity. Animals provide great opportunity for learning and important life lessons on compassion, empathy, kindness and friendship.

Our “Furry Friends Fiesta” event at Vivero International, Sarjapur, Bengaluru, attracted a huge audience and caught the very essence of children learning to respect the environment, living beings and their different needs as well as learning about different habitats around the world.

The animals made children smile, laugh and generate curiosity. It was also a fantastic family day out as together they experienced the wonderful world of Rudyard Kipling's 'Jungle Book'. A picture perfect event with Mowgli, Baloo, Bageera, Sherkhan and other Jungle Book friends created a lot of buzz and enthusiasm. From chasing the ducks to cuddling the Retrievers, from bunnies in arms to turtles in ponds, it was certainly a day to remember for our children.



## Parent Chronicles

*Parents speak about our Entrepreneurship programme at Vivero International*



Keeping in mind, the changing environment that we live in, it is our (as in the school and parents) combined goal, to constantly empower our kids with the skills, that will prepare them better for the challenges ahead. While it may seem like the primary years are too early to focus on such goals, I was very happy and equally excited to hear of Vivero, designing a special curriculum, focussing of such strengths to be developed in the kids. The Entrepreneurship Programme, is one of the many such initiatives being undertaken by the school. Like most kids, Mihika too, has always been a keen learner, with a desire to perform better. The Entrepreneurship programme has inculcated in her the ability to think ahead, to think independently, to lead and to initiate. I have observed her, discussing her ideas with her friends and also trying to convince them to try her ways, whether it is a new game she wants to play, or an art activity. Her confidence with which she puts forth her suggestions has remarkably improved, and so has her ability to convince and discuss. Every child has in them the ability to think out of the box, but when the teacher focuses on that strength and applauds them for their effort, that same idea gets wings.

**Deepti Garg, Mihika's mother**  
Vivero International Pre-school & Child Care, Bengaluru



I want to applaud the thought and execution of the Entrepreneurship Program done at Vivero International as it has given a beautiful opportunity and exposure Aateekah in her K2 through the Recycle Bazaar. It was indeed delightful to have my child involved so completely in a project. I loved the part that the students were encouraged and supported by the teachers in making, pricing, selling and buying the recycled products set up in the Bazaar. It definitely instilled a lot of confidence and clarity of thought in my daughter Aateekah. The joy on her face when the children were given 'Vivero money' to buy what they liked from the recycled products made by their peers was and is still a lovely memory. I find Aateekah has found it so much easier to choose, plan and execute her tasks after the exposure she received during the recycling week at school. I absolutely have to mention that all this would not have been possible without the constant support and encouragement extended by the teachers and management.

**Sohaar S Zehra, Aateekah's mother**  
Vivero International Pre-school & Child Care, Pune



It is very assuring to see the school instilling leadership and entrepreneurial skills in young ones. At work places, these days, it is common practice for organizations to encourage and expect all team members to think and act 'as if you own this business'. A pertinent skill gap that Vivero addresses - much appreciated.

**Anshul Mittal Jaruhar, Vibhavari's mother**  
Vivero International Pre-school & Child Care, Bengaluru

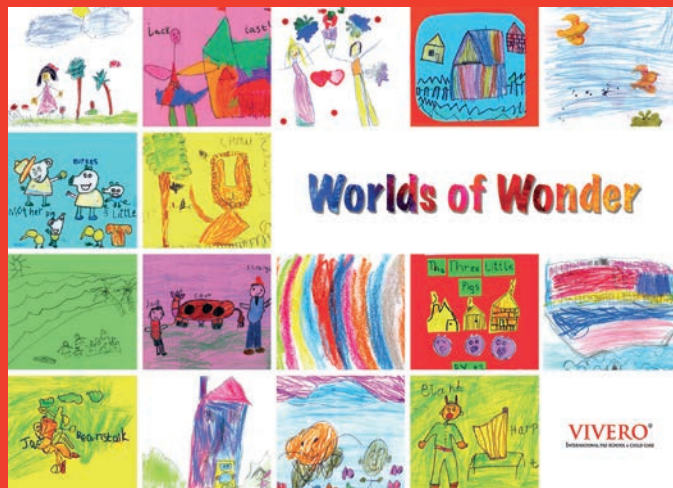


As part of the Entrepreneurship Program, awesome work done by the teachers and children of Nursery in putting up the Selling Counter of wind chimes, paper bags and bracelets created from recyclable materials. It had such a positive effect on children's self confidence and social skills. Plus additional thumbs up for the school management and teachers for putting waste to good use by encouraging children to use the bottles and straws. Overall the effort was worth all the hard work.

**Deepa Sasi, Meera's mother**  
Vivero International Pre-school & Child Care, Powai

## What's the Buzz

### Worlds of Wonder



Children are constantly observing and making meaning of the world around them. When young children express their emotions, vivid imaginations and ideas, it makes for profound stories. To value this unique vision and creative potential of children as they express themselves, 'Worlds of Wonder' is our first publication. It is a compilation of stories and graphics written and illustrated by the children of KI and KII class at Vivero schools. These stories reveal the authentic voices and embody the children's social and emotional health and present a clear snapshot of their private environments.

This book is special and exclusive as it reflects the intellectual prowess of children that is hard to be captured through mundane techniques. It makes the children feel more confident when they feel that their work is taken seriously. As parents and educators, it is a source of immense pride to see the magical creativity of their children, thus motivating them to provide children with more intentional learning experiences.

Through the process of creating these stories, the role of the teacher has been that of a true facilitator. While creating these stories, children slipped on multiple hats of being authors, editors, and illustrators while collaborating with each other to complement their skills. As a facilitator, the teacher provided children the opportunity to have a voice and exercise choice, and let them experience the joy and power of creation and narration.

We invite you to take a glimpse of this marvelous 'Worlds of Wonder' at a Vivero center near you. We are sure that you will enjoy going through them as much as we enjoyed putting them together!

### Cocina Treats *du* Vivero



When parents cook for their children, it is a profound way of showing their love and commitment to them. This is especially true for the parents of young children, as the first five years of their lives is the phase when children undergo rapid physical growth and develop significant personality attributes. Research studies indicate a definite linkage of nutrition in children's early years to health and academic performance in their later years and adult life. Parents are often worried about the picky eating habits of their children or simply about the daily challenges of what to send in their snack boxes that are both nutritious and appealing.

Cocina Treats *du* Vivero is a labour of love of our children, members of the Friends of Vivero Club, staff members and Vivero Kitchens. It is a marvelous collection of delectable child-friendly recipes with carefully chosen ingredients. Each recipe is a proven strong favourite! These recipes are certified by our nutritionist Ms. Shivani Shah and carry the required nutritional information. We at Vivero believe that cooking nutritious meals and raising children to adopt healthy eating behaviours do not have to be daunting. We believe that just as buying food and cooking is an act of love, so is cooking for and with the children to promote family bonding and togetherness.

Grab a copy of Cocina Treats *du* Vivero from a Vivero center near you and let your child inside this circle of magic. Whip up a confection together as this is an experience that both of you will cherish!

## HR Movements

### **Bengaluru**

- Ms. Sophie George joined as the School Head of our up-coming pre-school – Vivero International Pre-school and Child Care at RMZ Ecoworld
- Ms. Aishwarya Trichur joined as the Parent Relationship Manager of Vivero International Pre-school and Child Care, RMZ Ecoworld
- Mr. Raghavendra joined as Manager - New Projects

### **Hyderabad**

- Ms. Madhuri joined as Regional Manager (Corporate)
- Ms. Snigdha Varma joined as the Parent Relationship Manager of our up-coming pre-school – Vivero International Pre-school and Child Care at Hitech City

### **Workshops / Training Sessions Attended:**

- Colleagues from Bangalore attended the Conference in Bengaluru titled 'Schools That Care' held by The Teacher Foundation (TTF).

## Keep in Touch

### Parent Teacher Meeting

Participating in a parent teacher meeting is a great way to help your child succeed at school. Whether the child is just starting school or heading to kindergarten next year, parents and teachers share important developmental information in face-to face interactions. Children do better in preschool when parents are involved in their academic development as well.

These brief one-on-one meetings with the child's

teacher set the stage for a child's growth over the year. The teachers share glimpses of upcoming events and celebrations at school, and unique learning experiences that reflect unique growth journey of children. The teachers also share the Portfolios created for each child.

This Portfolio is a purposeful collection of the child's work that aims to document the story of the child's learning process. Teachers and parents can use these

moments to solidify their partnership and develop a common goal that focuses on helping the child have the best school experience possible.

A prepared parent who maintains a positive attitude and an open mind is on the right track for creating a successful, relationship with his child's teacher and school. Parent-teacher meetings are great opportunities to build a partnership with the teachers -- one that lasts for the duration of the school year.



Get ready for a parent-teacher meeting by making a list of the questions you want to ask. Some frequently asked questions could be-

#### How is my child doing socially and emotionally?

"How the child functions socially in the class" is a topic that should be addressed at the meeting, so enquire about your child's peer relations. It's also important to ask about your child's emotional health at school.

#### What do you think my child is particularly good at?

Find out about the good stuff. Ask about personal strengths that will extend beyond school.

#### Does my child need extra help in any areas?

Your child's teacher can tell you if your child is falling behind in a skill or domain. Armed with that information, you can create a plan with your child and his/ her teacher to work harder in that area.

#### May I share a concern?

If you're worried about a situation at school, bring it up with the teacher. Teachers usually appreciate when parents bring an issue to their attention, as long as it's done with respect.

#### Can you share some information about your teaching method?

Ask your child's teacher for more information about the teaching method, how it can help your child and what the teacher can and will do if the method does not work with your child.

#### Do you have any advice?

If you need help with an issue your child is having, ask the teacher for input. Seasoned teachers have worked with hundreds of students, and many have good advice to share.

Stay in touch with your child's teachers. This will not only help you strengthen your understanding of how the curriculum works and how your child is performing, but will also contribute to the success of your child, who understands and appreciates that parents and teachers are working together, and that his/her education is a top priority at school and at home.



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