

Seven Things Parents LOVE About Effective Teachers

1. Parents love teachers who **treat each child as if he/she were the teacher's child**. They trust these teachers to treat their children fairly. These teachers actually tell the parents, "I'll treat each of your children as if they were my own."
2. Parents love teachers who **keep them abreast of what's going on in the classroom**. They love getting updates on what's happening in your classroom. They love hearing about wonderful learning that's taking place. They love being "included" and feeling "in the know."
3. Parents love teachers who **make efforts to ensure positive communication**. These teachers send notes home telling parents of their children's successes, make phone calls to let them know of good things going on with their children, and keep them informed as to the progress of their children. This way, when a serious or negative situation presents itself, the parents are more willing to deal with a teacher they believe actually cares about their child and enjoys teaching their child. With less effective teachers, a negative phone call or letter is often the first communication between the parent and the teacher. Thus parents feel the teacher only communicates when something is wrong!
4. Parents love teachers who LISTEN to them. This does not mean that the parent and teacher always agree. It simply means that the parent feels as though he/she can come to the teacher and have open and honest discussions, even in times of disagreement.
5. Parents love teachers who don't give up on students. These teachers do whatever it takes to help a child succeed—from taking extra time with the child, to suggesting to parents ways that they can help the child at home, to keeping parents abreast of all the efforts the teacher is making to ensure success for the child—academically, socially, and/or behaviorally. Parents see these teachers as team players, not threats or inhibitors to their child's well-being.
6. Parents love teachers who challenge students, while making learning attainable and fun. Students WANT to go to these teachers' classrooms, not because it's easy, but because they feel challenged, loved, safe, and successful.

7. Parents love teachers who do not overburden students with lengthy homework assignments. Learning is done in class. Homework is quick, meaningful, and doable—meant only to reinforce what has been learned in class. Many parents do not feel capable of teaching their children content they, themselves, don't understand. And, even if they do understand the content, they are wondering why their child isn't being helped to grasp the content in class. And even if the child does understand the concept of the homework, no parent is happy when their child has to spend hours at night completing homework assignments!