

## Maintaining a Home–School Relationship

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Families and professionals may have difficulty maintaining a connection and an effective method for sharing information about what is happening at home and school. It is important to understand that maintaining that connection and building relationships is sometimes hard, but always necessary.

The following are some general strategies families can use to establish and maintain a good relationship between home and school:

1. It is very important that, at the beginning of the school year, both teachers and family members understand how information will be shared between home and school, and to understand how concerns and problems will be handled. It is also important for families and professionals to know what to expect from one another.
2. Get to know your child's program; plan to visit your child's classroom frequently, i.e., at least 2 or 3 times a month.
3. Have regular informal meetings with professionals, e.g., teachers, itinerant specialists, 1:1 aides and other staff. To help you remember everything you want to discuss, write down all your questions and concerns you want to share with them.
4. Remember not to be afraid to openly ask questions and to expect answers.
5. Ask the teachers for your child's daily schedule and for information on how this is implemented to accomplish established goals and objectives.
6. Create a daily journal for sharing written comments and concerns on a daily basis from home to school and school to home. A binder with your child's name is a simple tool to use for this communication.
7. Create a parents' board in your child's classroom to post important information.
8. Be available to participate in and volunteer for school activities.
9. Whenever possible, make yourself available by phone for any last minute things.
10. Check your child's backpack for important information.
11. Network with other family members to communicate and share important information.
12. Understand that it is important to make the commitment to follow through on any methods that are decided on to maintain the connection and a good relationship between home and school.

*Fact sheets from California Deaf-Blind Services are to be used by both families and professionals serving individuals who are deaf-blind. The information applies to students 0–22 years of age. The purpose of the fact sheet is to give general information on a specific topic. More specific information for an individual student can be provided through individualized technical assistance available from CDBS. The fact sheet is a starting point for further information.*