

**Early in the school year, most schools will have a time for parent conferences. This is a time for you to meet with your children's teachers. The conversation below is between Jane Chen's mother, Julie and her teacher, Mrs. Flores. Read the conversation with a partner, and underline anything you don't understand. Back in the group, ask questions about the conversation. Then discuss with the group the questions below the conversation.**

Mrs. Chen: Hello Mrs. Flores, I'm Julie Chen, Jane's mother. How is Jane doing in your class?

Mrs. Flores: It's nice to meet you Mrs. Chen. Overall, Jane is doing well.

Mrs. Chen: Does Jane get along with the other children.

Mrs. Flores: Generally, yes. She seems outgoing.

Mrs. Chen: Does she participate in class?

Mrs. Flores: To be honest, she doesn't raise her hand often. I think she may be a little shy about speaking out in class. Perhaps, she doesn't always understand my English. She needs to raise her hand and tell me if she doesn't understand the question.

Mrs. Chen: I'll talk to her about that. I'll tell her to ask you to repeat the question if she doesn't understand. How is Jane doing in math. That is her hardest subject.

Mrs. Flores: She is doing well with fractions, but she's having a little trouble with decimals. If you could check over her homework every night, I think it would help a lot.

Mrs. Chen: Are you satisfied with her progress in spelling?

Mrs. Flores: Jane is doing much better than at the start of school.

Mrs. Chen: Does Jane ever get in trouble at school.

Mrs. Flores: Oh no. She is very polite to everyone.

Mrs. Chen: Jane has complained about a little boy who teases her. Do you know anything about this?

Mrs. Flores: As a matter of fact, I had to caution Adam last week for making faces at Jane. I don't think he meant any harm, but I told him to stop. Adam is the class clown, and he frequently acts up a little bit. I'll talk to him and make sure he isn't being mean.

Mrs. Chen: Thank you. I would appreciate that. Jane really enjoys your class. Please feel free to call me at home if you have any problems with Jane.

Mrs. Flores: I'll do that. It was nice to meet you.

1. If Jane were your child, would you be pleased or disappointed about this conference?
2. What would you worry most about if Jane were your child?
3. Has your child ever experienced teasing at school? What did you do about it?
4. Do you think Mrs. Flores was too dismissive of the teasing incident?
5. Would this conversation be the same if it was happening in your country?
6. Do you have any questions about public school in the U.S.?
7. In your country, do most people go to public school or private school?
8. Do many people homeschool their children?
9. Did your parents keep close tabs on what was happening at your school?
10. Did your parents help you with your homework? Do you help your kids with theirs?
11. How many hours of homework is too many?
12. When should children start having an hour or more of homework?
13. Some U.S. parents think kids do too much homework? Is this a problem in your country?
14. Were you allowed to watch TV on school nights?
15. What is the most important thing children learn at school?
16. How can parents help their children do well in school?
17. Have you had problems communicating with a teacher in the U.S.?
18. How are schools different now than when you attended?

**Choose the correct verb in these sentences.**

1. You (shouldn't/couldn't) have talked to his teacher before I arrived.

2. You (shouldn't have/should have) forgotten your daughter's birthday.
3. Be careful. You (should have/ could have) gotten hurt.
4. That bus driver (might have/should have) hit those children.
5. I (should have/ shouldn't have) gone to bed earlier last night.
6. If Helen had studied for the test she (could have/shouldn't have) gotten an A.
7. Someone (should have/must have) eaten all the cookies because the container is empty.
8. You (might have/shouldn't have) walked home from school all alone.
9. Cody came to school late. He (must have/should have) gotten up late.
10. I brought a map because I was afraid I (must have/might have) gotten lost.
11. You look upset. Something terrible (should have/must have) happened.
12. Our teacher didn't come to class yesterday. She (should have/might have) been sick.  
You look exhausted. You (shouldn't have/ couldn't have) worked so late.