



The Family-5:

A Five Point Learning Communication between School and Home

Teachers and parents may want to consider using this sample document as a basis for communication about student learning standards, lessons, real-world applications, and big ideas from student learning experiences.

When parents and families are informed about current teaching and learning, they can play an important role in supporting student success. As students experience remote learning, virtual classrooms, or hybrid models of teaching and learning, parents and families are playing increasingly important roles.

This **Family 5** document is a sample outline for a high-quality home/school communication about teaching and learning.

- Parents can use the information in the **Family 5** document to gain information about their child's learning, hold focused communications with their child's teacher, learn new ways to support learning outside of school, monitor how their child is performing, and share information that helps teachers assess and deliver individualized instruction.
- Teachers can use the **Family 5** document to help parents and families become more informed about "what," "why" and "how" students are learning. It also allows teachers to share the "know" and "show" ideas behind parents' role in supporting their child's learning.

This "**what, why, how, know, and show**" document isn't a substitute for frequent, meaningful discussions between teachers, parents, families, and students but it does provide a guide for a shared language and basic framework to outline a real-time "snap shot" of teaching, learning and student performance. It can be an effective tool to develop shared goals and strategies that ultimately lead to stronger student learning.

The five key points that parents should know about what their child is learning at school are:

What - This is what students are learning. It aligns with student learning standards.

Why - This is why students are learning it and how it connects to the "real world."

How - Has two parts: This is how students are taught the concept and how families can help children learn the concept.

Know - These are some "Look-Fors" to help us know if students are learning the concept.

Show - This is what your child did to show that he learned and can use the new skills.



The Family 5

A Five Point Learning Communication between Home and School

Your child is a star! This “Family 5” communication is built on the five points of that star and it outlines the main ideas your child is learning now. The five points below contain key information that families should know about their child’s learning – “*what, why, how, know, and show.*” Information from the five points can help us work together to build goals for your child’s success.

As your child’s teacher, I will frequently share information about teaching, learning and ideas on how *you* can help your child learn. All families can enrich their child’s learning. No parent needs to re-teach lessons. Resources don’t need to be fancy or expensive. The idea is for you to help your child use their new knowledge in the “real world.”

Support for your child’s learning includes some things called “look-fors.” All families can use look-fors. I’ll share some with you for each lesson and I hope you will share your observations about how your child is learning. When we share that information, we can communicate about how we can work together to support additional learning.

The best way you can help your child learn is when you support the ideas below and communicate with me about how you can do that outside of class (in-school or virtual).

Here is some information about the “*what, why, how, know, and show*” of your child’s learning right now.

Topic: _____

Five points that engage families as learning partners... *what, why, how, know, and show.*

1 What - This is what students are learning. It aligns with student learning standards. (You can find more about it here.)
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2 Why - This is why students are learning it and how it connects to the “real world.”
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3 How - This is how your child is taught the concept and how you can help your child learn this concept outside of school.
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4 Know - These are some “Look-Fors” to help us know if your child is learning the concept.
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5 Show - This is what your child did to show that he learned and can use the new skills.
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I invite you to contact me if you have questions or want more ideas to support your child’s learning. This is my contact information: