



## Report to **PARENTS**

# Talking About Grades

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A discussion with your child about grades can be an effective conversation starter that leads to a broader discussion about school in general. Allowing your child the opportunity to share thoughts and feelings not just about academics but also about social issues and their teachers is just as important as a conversation about grades. Families can use these tips to talk to kids about grades in a positive and effective way.

## Take Time One on One

Select a quiet time and place to have a conversation with your child and give ample time and your full attention, without interruptions. Choose a place to talk that is free from the distraction of electronics and other people in the house. It helps to make a “statement of intent” prior to the conversation so your child can prepare.

## Start Positive

Reviewing grades is a chance to give credit where your child is excelling. Highlight their strengths with a positive opening statement like “I see you’re doing really well in spelling. That’s great!” to help build motivation. Assure your child that there is time for improvement and that you are here to help come up with a plan for success.

## Focus on Effort

Combined with grades and teachers’ notes, effort marks help you understand your child’s attitude toward learning. Giving credit and encouragement for effort is especially important for kids who have trouble academically. If your child is trying their best and feels their efforts are seen, they’ll be more enthusiastic and resilient learners.



## Make a Plan

During the discussion, you and your child might have identified areas that need attention. Set learning goals and identify actionable steps to address concerns or progress toward achieving them. To keep on top of the plan, set aside time each week to check in on your child’s progress. Talk about what your child learned in class, what assignment they are working on, and any new things that require help.

## Outline Solutions

Encourage your child to share their thoughts and worries. Kids who are struggling the most in school often have a lot to say. Address challenges that come up in the discussion and outline possible solutions as a team.