



## **MY KID IS ACTING UP AT SCHOOL. WHAT DO THE TEACHERS WANT ME TO DO ABOUT IT?**

### **Remember the Goal.**

You and the teacher are working together as a team to ensure your child is successful at school.

### **Assume educators have your child's best interest in mind.**

Make your child's teacher feel safe communicating honestly with you.

### **Inquire with curiosity instead of accusations.**

Always assume the most generous interpretation of the situation and of the people involved.

### **Educators are a valuable resource.**

It may be helpful to remember that this teacher is highly qualified with multiple degrees and certificates on Child Development and Teaching & Learning (among other things).

### **It's OK to simply ask "any suggestions?"**

"What would you do if this was your child?" It's unlikely the teacher will offer this up without you asking.

### **Keep your ego in check.**

This teacher has your child's best interest at heart. They are not assuming you are a bad parent. Educators know how difficult parenting can be.

## Give yourself grace.

It's understandable that these things will trigger some feelings. Take a beat and work through that before communicating with your child's teacher. It's OK to take a few minutes at a meeting, or even ask to reschedule if it feels too overwhelming for you.

## Ask about book recommendations

...or other resources that might help you address this topic with your child.

## Many situations of acting out are age-appropriate.

To gauge the situation, you might ask "How common is this issue for students?" "Is this age-appropriate behavior?"

## It's expected for a developing child to test boundaries and limits.

It's the adult's job to hold the boundaries and to hold children accountable.

# Sample Scripts

- "Thank you for telling me. I'm glad we're working together to make sure my child is successful at school."
- "How can I best support my child at home so they can be successful here at school?"
- "What is some common language we can both use so my child is hearing a consistent message at home and at school?"
- "Are there resources you might recommend to address this topic with my child?"
- "Is this age-appropriate behavior?" "How common is this behavior?"
- "Is there anything else you might recommend when I'm addressing this with my child?"
- "Can we check back soon to review progress?"



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