



Reflecting on Parent Wishes

Read the following excerpt before answering the question below.

What Parents Want Teachers to Know

(excerpt from Education World, Starr, 2004a, pp. 1-6)

“Even though he might seem average to everyone else, my child is very special to me. Look for what is unique about him.

“Get to know my child—and share the information with me. Children can act very differently at school and I count on you for insight into understanding my child.

“I worry about how my child gets along with other children and with his teachers. Is he a leader? Does he seem happy? Does he volunteer information or do you have to call on him? Is he cooperative...well-liked...awkward? Telling me he’s doing fine isn’t enough; give me positive examples of why I don’t have to worry about him.

“Don’t overdo homework. I understand that homework is necessary, but too much of anything is a bad thing. Families have so little time to be together...evenings shouldn’t be spent only doing homework. We need time to do other things together too. Also, be aware that you are not the only teacher in the school. My child has other teachers who give homework too.

“I know that mandated testing is important, but don’t make it the focus of your classroom, or the only reason my child is at school.

“Please don’t talk negatively about my child to other parents—or other teachers. Don’t talk about my child at all if there’s any chance he or other children might overhear.”

Reflection Assignment

Relate the comments above to your role as an educator and your role in loco parentis.

What thoughts, questions or concerns come to your mind?

Create a brief essay of approximately 500 words in which you reflect on what parents have expressed and how you feel about these statements. Include questions you may have that can be discussed with peers and/or your Instructional Coach.

Although it is not part of the written assignment you are required to submit, if possible, pose questions or issues to experienced teachers to gain their perspectives.