

How to Talk So Schools Will Listen and Listen so Schools Will Talk

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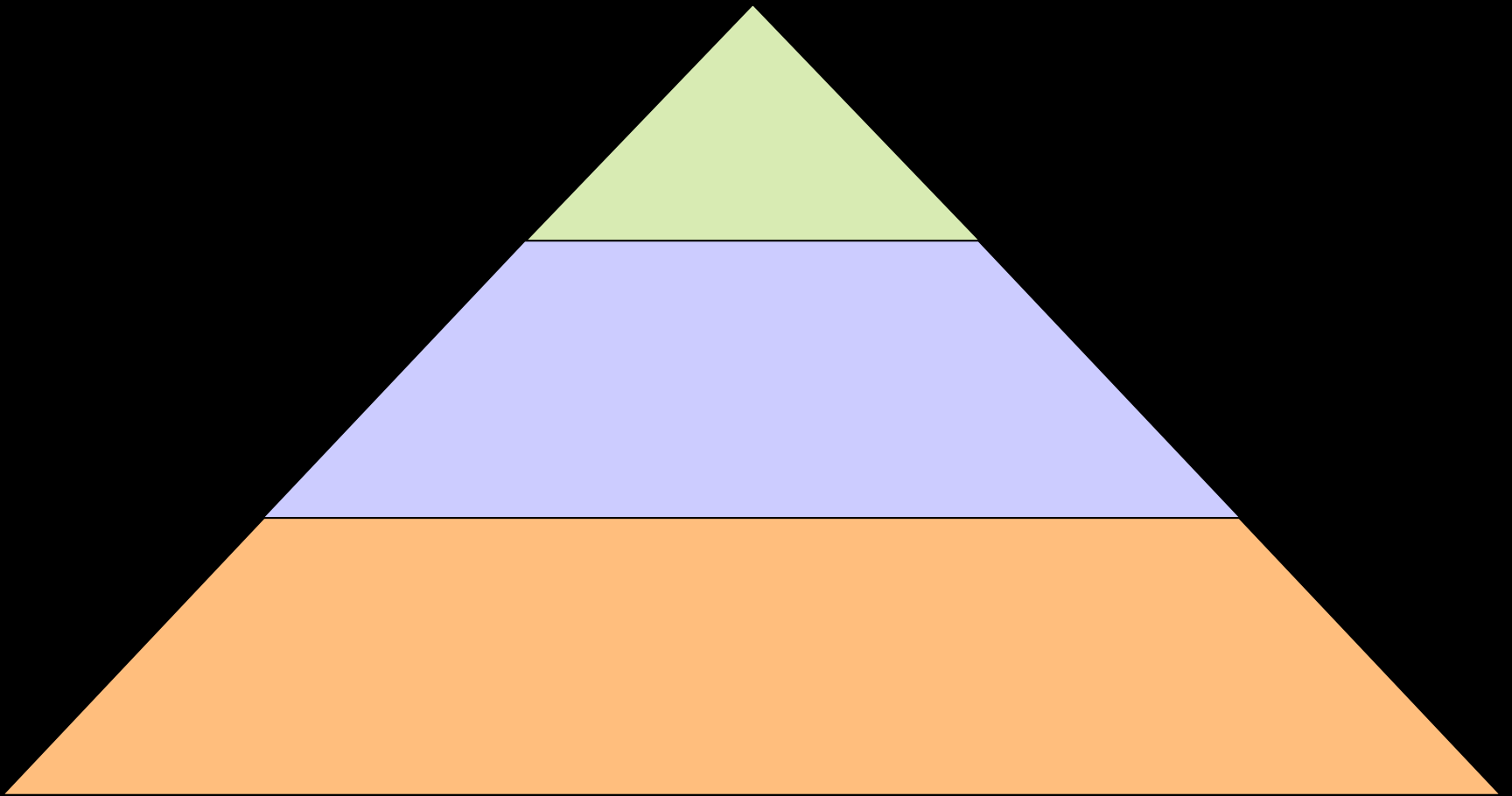
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Partnering for Success



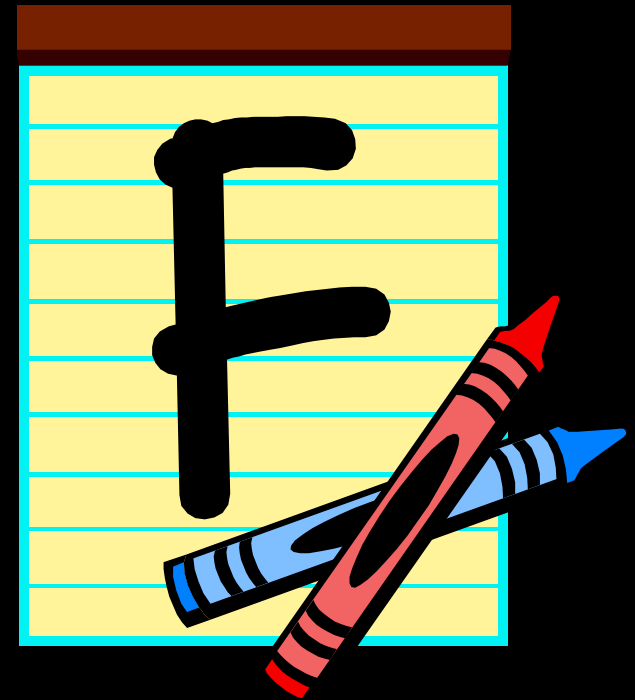
On the Right Track

- Create a supportive home environment that promotes a healthy respect for education
- Model learning and academics at home
- Have a defined work area at home
- Know about your child's day – stress the positive, but discuss the negatives
- Try not to over-react, but discuss comments on papers
- Teach them to be proud of themselves
- Teach children self discipline
- Identify your child's strengths and challenges with learning



The Learning Curve of Failure

- Realistic expectations for child
- Kids and parents need to understand that it is ok to fail
- Opportunity to learn new skill or stretch themselves
- Appropriate reaction from parents
- Identify the feelings but avoid the shame and the blame



Communication is a two-way street

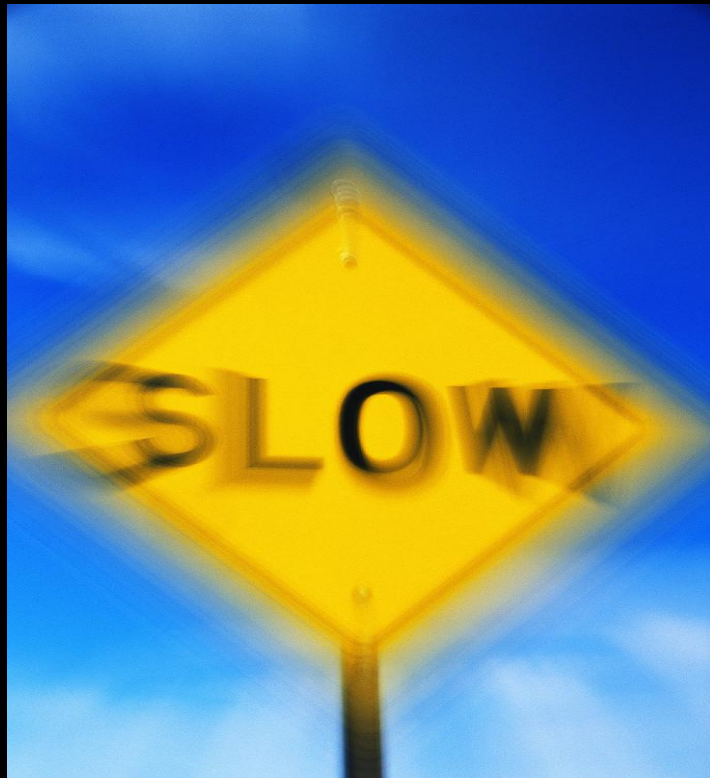


- Read school communications and e-mails
- Read notes from the teacher
- Check your child's planner
- Get to know your child's teacher
- Let teachers know your schedule
- Take home work seriously
- Schedule a time to visit rather than catching them off guard



- Have regular communication with the teacher
- Get involved at the school
- Let teachers know about any stressors the child may be experiencing that would negatively impact classroom learning
- If you are upset about something, calm down and think through your response before contacting the school.
- Contact the teacher first.





- Let the teacher know you want to help them help your child
- Let them know they are an important member of the team
- Support them by not criticizing them in front of your child
- Be open-minded
- Get both sides of the story



Going for the Gold

- Remember, body language speaks volumes!!
- If you are open to change, they might be too!
- Decide what you want, but know what your child needs
- You are your child's first teacher, and you know them best, so do not be afraid to offer your opinion
- Be positive – you get more with honey than lemons
- Practice reflective listening
- Reframe and restate



- Talk to your child
- Know about activities in the classroom as they relate to your child
- Thank them for their time and willingness to work with you and your child



The Road Map

- Have an agenda
- Bring a list of questions you have
- Red flag behaviors
- Curriculum questions
- Jargon Questions
- General insights or feedback

- Note concerns you may have



Gentleman, Start your Engines!

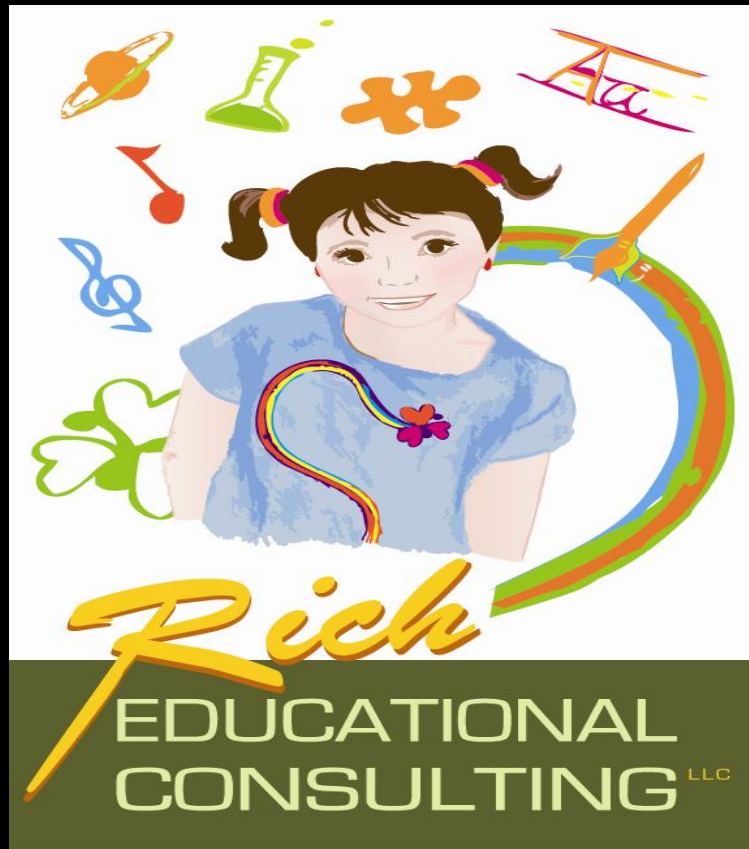
- Develop an action plan
- Set clear goals

- What do you want to accomplish?
- Is it realistic?
- Is it relevant?
- Is there enough time to accomplish the goal?

- Put it in Writing
- Follow through



Resources



- For contact information, workshops, CD presentations, assessments, or other services, visit our website at www.richeducationalconsulting.com
- “Unity”, poem originally published in the newsletter for the American School Counselor’s Assn, Vol. 28, No. 2, Copyright, 2006, Practical Parent Education.
- The strategies in this presentation are intended only as a guide, and may not be appropriate for all situations. If you need help with a specific situation, please contact us directly.