

A POSSIP GUIDE FOR FAMILIES



Engaging With Your Child's School

a guide for parents



WELCOME

A Note From Possip

Possip started with a simple belief: parent voices matter, and schools are stronger when families and educators truly listen to each other.

This booklet pulls together our most-read guidance for parents — how to build a real relationship with your child's teacher, make the most of a five-minute conference, write feedback that gets heard, and stay involved without burning out.

You don't have to do everything in here. Pick the chapter that's useful this week, and come back to the rest when you need it.



Founder & CEO, Possip

WHAT'S INSIDE

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CHAPTER 1

Building a Real Relationship With the Teacher

It shapes everything — how comfortable you feel raising a concern, and how much support your child gets. Build it before you need it.

- **Start a positive bank account.** Share praise often — small deposits of trust add up.
- **Ask what they need.** A little help at the start of the year goes a long way.
- **Open a channel.** Offer to help run a class group chat or shared doc.

TRY THIS

Send one “good things” message to the teacher this week — no ask attached.

*Adapted from “6 Ways Parents Can Support Teacher Communication,”
possip.com*

CHAPTER 2

Making the Most of Parent-Teacher Conferences

Conferences are short — often just ten or fifteen minutes. A little prep turns it into a real conversation.

- **Before:** look through recent work, and ask your child what they'd bring up.
- **Ask:** "How is my child doing, and where do they need to grow?"
- **Ask:** "How can I support their learning at home?"
- **After:** take notes, and follow up — don't wait for the next one.

TRY THIS

Pick three questions from this chapter before your next conference.

*Adapted from "Make the Most of Your Parent-Teacher Conference,"
possip.com*

CHAPTER 3

Staying Informed About Academic Progress

Families who feel informed stay more engaged — and trust the school more.

- **Look for a system,** not just report cards.
- **Learn the portal.** Ask for a walkthrough if you've never had one.
- **Ask about the whole picture** — attendance and effort, not just grades.
- **Fill out surveys.** It's the fastest way to flag a concern early.

TRY THIS

Ask: “Do I know how to find my child’s progress online?”

*Adapted from “How Successful Schools Communicate Academic Progress,”
possip.com*

CHAPTER 4

Writing Feedback That Actually Gets Heard

Your feedback is some of the most valuable info a teacher gets. Here's a structure that keeps it clear and kind.

- **Praise first** — aim for 4:1 praise to critique.
- **Describe the situation**, one issue at a time.
- **Name the impact** using “I” statements.
- **End with a question or idea.**
- **Invite a follow-up** call or conversation.

TRY THIS

Next time something's bothering you, draft it using this structure.

*Adapted from “How to Write an Email With Feedback to a Teacher,”
possip.com*

CHAPTER 5

Supporting School Safety as a Family

It can feel like there's little a parent can do. There's actually a lot — and most of it starts at home.

- **Know your perspective** before you're asked.
- **Get involved.** Attend events, volunteer for supervision.
- **Reinforce protocols.** Talk through drills at home.
- **Say something** if anything feels off.

TRY THIS

Walk through one safety protocol with your child this month.

Adapted from "7 Tips to Support School Safety Efforts," possip.com

CHAPTER 6

Getting Through Testing Season Together

Testing season is stressful for everyone. A few small habits go a long way.

- **Know the calendar.** Put dates on the fridge.
- **Show up.** Routine is the biggest driver of doing well.
- **Keep mornings calm.**
- **Best, then rest** — trying their best is genuinely enough.

TRY THIS

Skip the pep talk about outcomes — just say you're proud of the effort.

Adapted from "Top Ten Testing Tips for Parents & Schools," possip.com

CHAPTER 7

Motivating Your Child at Home

Every kid needs something different — but a few strategies work across the board.

- **Make it relevant.** Connect learning to their interests.
- **Give feedback,** not just grades — a weekly check-in works.
- **Give them an audience** — a grandparent call, a shared post.
- **Offer real choice.** Ownership turns a chore into an investment.

TRY THIS

Ask one open question about their schoolwork, and just listen.

Adapted from "Five Ways to Motivate Your Child," possip.com

CHAPTER 8

Finding Your Way to Get Involved

Family engagement isn't one-size-fits-all. There's a version that fits your life.

- **A little time?** Fill out surveys, reply to a newsletter.
- **More time?** Volunteer, join the PTA, lead an activity.
- **Tight schedule?** Ask about virtual meetings and remote tasks.

TRY THIS

Pick one thing from this chapter — just one — and do it this month.

Adapted from "60 Parent Engagement Ideas," possip.com

BEFORE YOU GO

Your Voice Matters

Schools work better when parents and educators are in real conversation. Praise, questions, concerns, ideas — all of it helps a school get better for your kid.

If your school partners with Possip, you already have an easy way to share that feedback. If not, you can always ask.

