

Positive Text Messages

Positive text messages are a quick and easy way to share positive news about a child! Reaching out to share positive news early and often can help establish a positive, supportive relationship with a family. A text message serves as a personal, short message a parent or family member can view at a time that is convenient.

Tips about positive text messages:

- Be specific-don't just say the child had a "great day." Instead, name out at least one specific action or moment that made his/her day great before stating that
- Text all parents or family members that care for the child
- To make the message extra special, send a photo of the child or a photo of his/her work
- If sending a photo, make sure to explain it concisely and in terms you know the family will understand
- Keep the conversation purely positive!
- Use questions that make it clear you'd like a response
- This text message doesn't need to initiate a lengthy conversation-it just serves as a chance to communicate briefly in a positive way.
- Make sure texting is a preferred mode of communication before doing it (it is the preferred method for many families these days!)

In the following artifact, a teacher is reaching out to a family to share about how the child participated positively in a class activity. The teacher sends an engaging photo with a brief explanation. As you can tell from the parent response, they are very happy to see an example of their child participating positively. This teacher has set up the routine of texting the family each Friday afternoon about how the child's week went, and includes a specific anecdote to make it more personal and specific.

Teachers:

- At the beginning of the year, ask all families to state their preferred methods of communication
- Send your first positive text early to establish texting as a method for sharing academic and behavioral information
- Send texts during hours you are able and willing to have conversations with families
- Make texting at least one family part of your end of the school day routine so you can stay consistent

School Leaders:

- Share resources with teachers—there are several programs out there that allow teachers to text without giving out their personal phone number
 - Allow 'expert' teachers to provide models and/or lead workshops during PD sessions on positive text messages and other family engagement strategies
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Sample positive text message:

