

White River School
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Communicating with Your Child About Her/His School Day

As you know we at WRS have a School-wide Plan in place with clearly defined expected behaviors and habits. We use our color system to help students self-regulate and to help them identify when/why they didn't meet expectations by giving them a visual color move. These color moves can also help parents/guardians feel informed. However, students, especially our youngers can become hyperfocused on color moves and we find that sometimes parents can too. Instead of asking, "What color are you in?" Please consider some of the questions listed below. These are great questions that will give you more insight into your child's day. The depth of these questions may also serve to keep you more informed about what your child is learning in each content area throughout the day/week. So, I would ask that you consider trying to take the focus off of color moves and try questions like these instead.

From: Parent.Co

Questions a kid will answer at the end of a long school day:

- What did you eat for lunch?
- What games did you play at recess?
- What was the funniest thing that happened today?
- Did anyone do anything super nice for you?
- What was the nicest thing you did for someone else?
- Who made you smile today?
- Which one of your teachers would survive a zombie apocalypse? Why?
- What new fact did you learn today?
- Who brought the best food in their lunch today? What was it?
- What challenged you today?
- What would you rate your day on a scale of 1 to 10? Why?
- If one of your classmates could be the teacher for the day who would you want it to be? Why?
- If you had the chance to be the teacher tomorrow, what would you teach the class?
- Did anyone push your buttons today?
- Who do you want to make friends with but haven't yet? Why not?
- What is your teacher's most important rule?
- What is the most popular thing to do at recess?
- Does your teacher remind you of anyone else you know? How?
- Tell me something you learned about a friend today.
- If aliens came to school and beamed up 3 kids, who do you wish they would take? Why?

What is one thing you did today that was helpful?
When did you feel most proud of yourself today?
What rule was the hardest to follow today? **(Instead of what color are you in?)**
What is one thing you hope to learn before the school year is over?
Which person in your class is your exact opposite?
Which area of your school is the most fun?
Which playground skill do you plan to master this year?

From: Understood.org

At a Glance

- The way you ask your child questions about school matters.

- Ask open-ended questions instead of questions that can be answered with *yes* or *no*.
- Ask questions about times when your child socializes with other kids, like lunch and recess.

When your child comes home on the first few days of school—or throughout the school year—you may have lots of questions for her. Here are some things to keep in mind when you're talking to your child about school.

- Try to ask open-ended questions to keep a conversation going. If you ask your child questions that can be answered with one word (*yes*, *no*, a name), then you'll probably get a one-word response.
- Often kids are not specific, so you have to ask for specific information when you want it.
- Starting with factual questions is a great way to ease into conversation. ("I know your class size is bigger this year than last year. What's that like?")
- Avoiding emotion-packed words (*happy*, *sad*, *mean*) can help the conversation go on longer.
- Asking positive questions gives your child a chance to express concerns. Negative questions tend to stop a conversation.

After School Conversation Starters

Avoid These Questions	Try These Instead
How was school?	What's the biggest difference between this year and last year?
Did you have fun at school?	What was the best thing you did at school?
Who did you sit with?	Tell me the names of the four kids who sat closest to you.
Was your teacher nice?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What was the most interesting thing your teacher said today? ● What class rules did your teacher say are important? ● What did your teacher say she likes to do?
Did your teacher go over the daily	What's the best thing about your daily

schedule with the class?	schedule?
Did you have everything you needed for school?	Was there anything you wish you had at school that you didn't have today?
Were the kids in your class nice?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who did you enjoy talking with the most?• Did anyone have anything fun or interesting to talk about?
Did you get your schedule?	Which days look best on your schedule?
Are your friends in your classes?	Tell me two kids you remember from each class.
Was the work hard?	What was the best thing your teacher asked you to do in ____ today?

Upcoming Events:

February 16th - Read on the Beach - Popsicles provided by the PTA!

February 19-23 - Winter Break

March 8 - PTA meeting with presentation by Ms. Powers - more information coming soon

March 9 - WRS Movie Night

April 16-20- Spring Break

May 24 - WRS Spring Concert