


sharemylesson
www.sharemylesson.com

How Parents Can Use Share My Lesson



What is **Share My Lesson**?

Share My Lesson is a place where anyone who works with students inside or outside of schools can come together to share their very best resources. Developed by educators, this free platform gives access to high-quality resources and provides an online community where educators and parents can collaborate with, encourage and inspire each other.

Share My Lesson
is for ...

- ☁️ A **new teacher** working to develop lesson plans and find great materials.
- ☁️ A **food service worker** who wants to share all his or her best resources on nutrition.
- ☁️ An **experienced teacher** who has successful lessons to share with colleagues.
- ☁️ An **early childhood educator** with a great activity for very young students.
- ☁️ A **classroom paraprofessional** with ideas on how to work with individual students and small groups.
- ☁️ A **new hall monitor** who needs student discipline strategies.
- ☁️ A **professor of teacher education** working with student teachers.
- ☁️ A **parent** looking for meaningful educational activities for children at home.

Share My Lesson
is for you!

To join **Share My Lesson**, sign up online at www.sharemylesson.com; registration is quick, free and easy. Then watch our how-to videos on locating resources and uploading *your* materials to the site.

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A strong partnership between schools and parents is pivotal to the academic success of students. Share My Lesson includes resources that will help anyone who works with students build and sustain effective relationships with parents.

Building strong school-family partnerships benefits students in many ways, including higher academic achievement, increased motivation for learning, improved behavior and attitude, and better attendance. The foundation for such partnerships begins with effective communication.

Many parents want to be involved in their child's education, but don't know how. They may have had a difficult time in school themselves, are not comfortable speaking English, or do not feel welcome or included at their child's school. Share My Lesson has resources on how parents, teachers, paraprofessionals and school staff can talk to each other; it is also a great source for information that educators can provide to parents so they can better understand their child's school environment as well as the education standards their child will have to meet.

Share My Lesson has an ever growing collection of resources designed to help educators and parents work together. Use the search engine to find relevant resources, or check out our new parent collection that focuses on building strong relationships to help all children succeed:

<http://tinyurl.com/SMLparentpartnerships>.

Here are some of the ways Share My Lesson can help you:

Developing Home-School Partnerships

Productive and respectful interactions between home and school are of great importance. Share My Lesson can provide educators and parents with strategies and ideas for building partnerships, including tips for improving communication between home and school, and conducting successful parent-teacher conferences.

Opportunities for opening the channels of communication also include parent-teacher organizations, student work sent home for parent review and comment, home visits, phone calls, e-mail, and school or classroom websites.

When communicating with each other it is important to:

- Focus on classroom learning activities, the child's accomplishments and how the parents can help at home with their child's learning.
- Employ active listening techniques: Give each other your undivided attention, paraphrase to verify what you hear, ask questions to clarify what you don't understand, and acknowledge each other's feelings.
- Maintain confidentiality.
- Respect cultural differences and be mindful of nonverbal communication.

Effective communication strategies involve:

- Early contact by the teacher, such as a phone call or letter home to introduce himself or herself and to establish expectations.
- Timeliness of contact after a problem has been identified.
- Consistent and frequent feedback on behavior and performance.
- Follow-through.
- Clarity and usefulness of communication.

Positive phone calls home

The manner in which schools communicate

and interact with parents can affect the extent and quality of parents' involvement with their child's learning at home. For example, schools that communicate bad news about student performance more often than they recognize student excellence may discourage parents from becoming involved by making them feel they cannot effectively help their children. When a phone call from school conveys good news, the atmosphere between home and school improves. Teachers and parents can lay the foundation for a solid partnership by making a positive phone call or sending an e-mail about the student.

Sometimes, it may be difficult to make the first call. Preparing for the call by jotting down some notes beforehand can make it easier. Here are some guidelines:

For School Staff:

- Introduce yourself.
- Tell the parents what their child is studying.
- Invite the parents to an open house and/or other school functions.
- Comment on their child's progress.
- Tell them about their child's achievements.
- Inform them of their child's strengths or share an anecdote.

For Parents:

- Introduce yourself.
- Tell the teacher about your child's strengths and weaknesses.
- Comment on a project or assignment that your child enjoyed.



Understanding the Common Core

Many parents have heard of the Common Core State Standards, but may not understand what they are, or how and why they were developed. The text of the actual standards may be overwhelming for parents who want to understand what their child is learning. Share My Lesson can help keep parents in the loop about the standards. The site includes sample letters to introduce parents to the standards as well as guides that walk parents through the Common Core and suggest ways to support their child's learning.

Special Populations

Share My Lesson has resources for parents of English language learners, including wonderful resources from our content partner Colorín Colorado, as well as advice on supporting families of students with disabilities and being a part of the school community.

Bullying

Bullying is an issue of great concern to parents, and partnerships between parents and school staff can play an important role in creating a safe and supportive environment for students, whether on the bus or in the hallway, cafeteria or classroom. Share My Lesson includes anti-bullying resources designed specifically with parents in mind.



**Share My Lesson
was developed by the American
Federation of Teachers and
TES Connect.**



A Union of Professionals

About the American Federation of Teachers

The American Federation of Teachers is a 1.5 million-member union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to furthering these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining, political activism and the work our members do.

The AFT works tirelessly to press for the tools, time and trust educators need to build strong public schools for all children, boost teacher quality, create rigorous academic standards aligned with a strong and deep curriculum, invest in wraparound services that help overcome barriers to student success, and ensure teachers and school support personnel have a voice in improving their schools.

www.aft.org

tesconnect

About TES Connect

TES is an extraordinary story, encompassing one of the fastest growing digital communities of any profession globally, as well as a 100-year heritage at the center of teaching and the education community. Today, with more than 2 million registered online users in 197 countries, it is the largest online network of teachers in the world.








More than 2 million resources are downloaded from the TES Connect website every week, and it is home to more than 500,000 individually crafted teaching resources developed by teachers for teachers. This massive collection helps to inspire and inform teachers when they are preparing their lessons. It is no surprise that 3.5 resources are downloaded every second from TES.

www.tesconnect.com



Why Join?

With **Share My Lesson**, you can ...

-  Use a single website to access more than 300,000 free resources.
-  Search by grade, subject, topic and format of resource.
-  See how educators have rated and reviewed resources.
-  Search for materials specifically designed to help understand the Common Core State Standards.
-  Access additional high-quality resources from our content partners, including LearnZillion, Colorín Colorado, Student Achievement Partners, Civic Voices, PTA, GLSEN, Bully Project, Peace First, Teaching Tolerance, National Constitution Center, RFK Center and BTU's 21st Century Lessons.
-  Have a trusted place to share what has worked with other students.
-  Gather advice and inspiration from your peers and educators.

Join now at
www.sharemylesson.com