**. Beginning-of-the-Year Questions for Parents**

In this *Edutopia* article, Oakland, California leadership coach Elena Aguilar bemoans the fact that as a new teacher she didn’t use her opening conversations with parents better. Based on 20 years of subsequent experience and having a child of her own in school, she now recommends the following questions:

* What do you see as your child’s greatest strengths and skills? Tell me about a time when you saw your child demonstrating those skills.
* Next June, what do you hope your child says about his/her experience in school this year? What’s the story you hope to hear?
* What was your experience like in this grade? How do you remember that year of school?
* What are your fears or concerns about your child in this year of school?
* How and when would you like me to be in touch with you this year? What do you hope I’d communicate with you about?
* Is there anything else you can tell me about your child that you think would help me support his/her learning?
* Is there a question you hope I’ll ask you about your child?

“7 Questions to Ask Parents at the Beginning of the Year” by Elena Aguilar in *Edutopia*, August 18, 2014, <http://bit.ly/1uGlq2O>