

Parent-Teacher Conference Skit

Narrator: Mrs. Bacon, a teacher, is at the door talking to another teacher (Teacher 2).

Teacher 2: Hello Mrs. Bacon, so how were your meetings today?

Teacher: Well I just ended one where the mother didn't speak English and her daughter had to translate for her, so I don't know how much she got out of our meeting. And I have another meeting that was suppose to start 10 minutes ago but the mother hasn't showed up, and I'm worried she won't because every time I try to reach her at home I can't get a hold of her; like a lot of my other parents. It just makes me think that these parents have no time.

Teacher 2: Yeah, I know what you mean. Well I gotta go, I have some papers to grade (*teacher 2 exits*)

Narrator: Just then Ms. Smith, the parent who Mrs. Bacon was waiting for rushes in.

Parent: (*Rushing in*) I'm sorry I'm late; it's been a crazy day.

Teacher: I'm just glad you're here Ms. Smith so we can talk about Jimmy.

(*They both sit*)

Parent: Again I'm sorry I just had some issues at work and then had to pick-up my youngest from daycare, and then drop off my other daughter at karate practice. So how's Jimmy doing in school?

Teacher: Well he's very interested in sports and loves science and the activities we do during that part of the day, but I'm very concerned about his reading. (*As if reading a laundry list and counting with fingers*) He doesn't seem to apply himself; he's not working up to his potential; and sometimes during class he can disruptive. I'm worried he may be at risk of failing this grade.

Parent: (*Slightly defensive*) Well...maybe the things you read in the class don't interest him. He tells me he gets bored in class and doesn't understand you. I'm just wondering...

Teacher: (*Slightly defensive*) Well, you know I did make and send home a list of "Choice Books" he could have chosen a book from. What I'd like to do is set up an SST... a meeting so we can talk about assessing Jimmy and possibly working towards an IEP for him.

Parent: Hmm. (*a bit confused*)

Teacher: We can start by looking at a running record for Jimmy, talking about his strengths and weaknesses in reading. And go from there.

Parent: Alright. I was wondering if there was a way I could possibly volunteer in class to help him out?

Teacher: Yes, but we only do the reading and writing part of the curriculum from 8:15am to 10:45am everyday. But before you can volunteer you have to go downtown to the district office to get the paper work done and then go to the police office to get finger printed.

Parent: I'm sorry, but you said the only times I can volunteer are between 8:15-10:45 in the morning? Those times are difficult for me. Is there any other time I can come in to help out.

Teacher: It wouldn't fit with the needs Jimmy has frankly. *(Teacher looks up at the clock)* I'm sorry Ms. Smith but I have a teacher training I have to go to. Can we set up another time to get together after school and continue talking about this?

Parent: Yes, I'm concerned about Jimmy's reading.

Teacher: Why don't I call you tomorrow and see what we can come up with.

Narrator: Mrs. Bacon walks Ms. Smith out. It is now later in the evening, and Mrs. Bacon has just returned to her classroom after her training, teacher calls another teacher on the phone from her room.

Teacher: *(picks up phone)* Hi Cheryl, what a day! I had 3 conferences today and I still have about 2 more hours of prepping and grading papers. I'm lucky if I get out of here by 8, maybe I should just spend the night. I met with Ms. Smith, finally, and we couldn't finish our meeting because I had another Open Court training to go to that I just got out of.

Ms. Smith and I talked about Jimmy and I just don't think she understood or cared about his problems reading. I know he's a good kid, but I'm worried about him. I just wonder if these people really care about their kids' education. I don't understand.

Anyway, I should go, I have to clean up my room, plan for tomorrow and figure out how to fit in the test prep stuff the district just gave us. I'll talk to you later. *(Mrs. Bacon leaves center of room)*

(Parent comes back to center. As narrator speaks, Parent improvise feeding kids, checking homework, and preparing kids for tomorrow)

Narrator: We now cut to the parent's, Ms. Smith's, home. She sits down at 9pm after feeding everyone, making sure homework is done, and getting kids ready for tomorrow and then calls another parent.

Parent: *(picks up phone)* Hi Donna, what a day! I had to get out of work early to make it to a conference with Jimmy's teacher; it's the 3rd time I had to leave work early this month. Anyway, I'm worried about Jimmy. Jimmy's teacher said something about him having a problem in reading and when I tried to tell her about what I thought she mentioned something about an IIT.

You know, walking in and sitting there, I just felt that I had to prove that I was a good parent. And when I offered to help it just seemed like it wasn't the help she needed or wanted. I know Jimmy wants to do well in school and he tries, but I don't think the teacher knows what she's doing in there. Jimmy and his friends say there are a lot of kids who are failing in that class. Now I'm thinking he may need a tutor but I don't know how I'm going to afford it or even get him there, with my job and my hours.

I should go; I still have laundry to do. We'll talk later. *(Hangs up phone leaves center of room)*

The End