

## n. Relationships between parents and teachers



Teachers are usually the first person that parents are contacting.

### a. Understanding what parents expect according culture

As a teacher, it is important to understand what parents are expecting from the school. In fact, when families come from other cultures, the school has a different representation than the one we are used to. To improve the communication, you can have with the parents of your students, it is important to keep in mind that:

- school and formal education have a different meaning for them;
- parents can consider school and teacher are “unreachable”;
- parents may not dare to come and ask you question as they may be ashamed.

It is also important to remember that parents expect their children to be in a safe environment, that they are going to learn and study.

Parents from migrant origin often hope that school will help their children have a better life than they did.

“Parents who themselves often have had very little formal education, entrust their children to the schools and the *experts* whom they feel know better than they how to educate their children. We know that children from cultures where parents view their role as non-interventionist in nature can attain high levels of academic achievement (Gibson, 1988).”<sup>1</sup>

As a teacher, you should value the parents even if they have expectations which are completely different from the one you are used to.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.idra.org/resource-center/obstacles-to-immigrant-parent-participation-in-schools/>