



A Tool to Help Teachers Understand Your Kindergarten Student

When parents and guardians take a child to a new school, they often feel nervous. Is their child going to have a positive experience? Will they fit in? Will they and their teacher “click”?

To help teachers better understand their child, parents might use the simple form below to share insight into their child’s personality and ways of learning. They might also attend Families and Schools Together (FAST), to give their Kindergartener (or new student) a positive start in school. (See www.phillyfasti3.com or www.turningpointsforchildren.org to learn about FAST.)

Outlining the following for teachers is especially useful during Kindergarten week, when you first meet a teacher—or when you go to parent-teacher conferences. Take a few minutes to draft your thoughts and then share these with your child’s teacher. (A printable form, with room to write, is available [here](#).)

1. My child learns best by —
2. The thing my child learned this past year, which makes me most proud is —
3. Some things I do at home to help my child learn are —
4. Right now, my child’s goal or dream is —
5. The thing my child likes best about school is —
6. One challenge my child has had with school is —
7. You will know my child is having difficulty when —
8. When my child is having a hard time learning something, it works best to —
9. Questions I would like to discuss with you include —

These questions come from a template titled “Help Me Know Your Child,” posted for school teachers on the *Pennsylvania Early Education / PA Keys* website. If you want to print these questions in a friendlier format, [click here](#).

To learn more about the FAST programs hosted in 30+ elementary schools in Philadelphia, check out PhillyFASTi3.com or contact Turning Points for Children at 267-236-1540 (FASTForKindergarten@tp4c.org).

ABOUT PhillyFASTi3

PhillyFASTi3 is a project seeking to change school climate by engaging K-2 families and students in 60 schools in Families and Schools Together (FAST®) and FASTWORKS® programs. Funded by U.S. Department of Education, Investing in Innovation program, PhillyFASTi3 includes the Philadelphia nonprofit Turning Points for Children, nonprofit Families and Schools Together, Inc., the School District of Philadelphia, the Wisconsin Center for Education Research, and the American Institutes for Research.

FAST®, FASTWORKS® and Families and Schools Together® are registered trademarks of Families and Schools Together, Inc. This piece was produced through the i3, Investing in Innovation Project, funded through the U.S. Department of Education, grant no. U411B120009.