

FOR PARENTS

In order to keep your child's academic progress on track, it is essential to keep lines of communication open with your child's school. This means providing feedback to teachers and administrators, asking pertinent questions, and keeping an eye on your child's personal growth. Asking the right questions is often crucial to your child's academic progress. The list below provides some pertinent questions to ask your child's teachers and/or school officials.

Suggested questions:

- Why is my child struggling? What is the school doing to help?
- How are the academic expectations different between Louisiana and Texas?
- How will these differences impact my child's education when or if we go back to Louisiana?
- My child has a 504 Plan. Will this plan continue in his or her new school?
- My child has special health needs. Who do I contact at the school to address them?
- How can I contact my child's teacher?
- What can I do to help my child at home?
- Are there tests to determine whether my child will pass to the next grade?
- Are there tutoring services available?
- Does the school offer special sessions or workshops to suggest how parents can help their children at home?
- How does the school communicate with parents? Are there newsletters, websites, or similar publications?
- Does the school provide transportation services for students?
- Will my child be provided with textbooks?

- Why doesn't my child have textbooks in all of his or her classes?
- What information do you need from me to help my child adjust to the new circumstances?
- Are there sports, music, or other activities in which my child can take part?
- My child's records were destroyed in Katrina - what do we do about that?
- My child needs to see a physician. Where can I go for a referral?
- When do parent conferences take place, and when are report cards issued?
- My child missed the first grading period. How can he/she best catch up?

This web site has official information from the Texas Education Agency that also may help answer some of your questions.

http://www.tea.state.tx.us/hcane/faq_parent.html

Selected Resources

This resource list is provided as a starting point for finding help in handling your current situation.

The National Association of School Psychologists have a number of resources for dealing with crisis and trauma. Visit their web site at

<http://www.nasponline.org/NEAT/katrina.html>

Helping Children Cope with Crisis: A Workbook for African American Families

http://www.nichd.nih.gov/publications/pubs/hccc/helping_children.htm

This activity book for African American Families was developed by the National Black Child Development Institute and the National Institute

of Child Health and Human Development, along with other African American community organizations. Health professionals and leaders of these organizations organize meaningful information for families coping with crisis in this activity book.

Resources for Children and Their Parents and Educators Dealing with the Hurricane Katrina Tragedy

- Alpern, Michele. **Let's Talk: Sharing Our Thoughts and Feelings During Times of Crisis**. Chelsea House, 2002.
- Boskey, Madeline. **Natural Disasters**. Children's Press, 2004.
- Draper, Allison Stark. **Coping with Natural Disasters**. Rosen, 2001.
- Gellman, Marc and Thomas Hartman. **Bad Stuff in the News: A Guide to Handling the Headlines**. SeaStar Books, 2002.
- Green, Jen. **1993 Mississippi River Floods**. Gareth Stevens, 2005.
- Latta, Sara L. **Dealing with the Loss of a Loved One: Focus on Family Matters**. Chelsea House, 2002.
- Pfeffer, Wendy. **The Big Flood**. Millbrook, 2001.
- Ruiz, Ruth Ann. **Coping with the Death of a Brother or Sister**. Rosen, 2001..

If you would like to read some fictional stories to help you start talking with your child about the hurricane, the following fiction books may be useful.

- Anderson, Laurie Halse. **Storm Rescue**. American Girl, 2001.
- Bauer, Joan. **Stand Tall**. Putnam's Sons, 2002.
- Carbone, Elisa. **Storm Warriors**. Alfred A. Knopf, 2001.

- Demas, Corinne. **Hurricane!** Marshall Cavendish, 2000.
- Doucet, Sharon Arms. **Alligator Sue**. Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2003.

Note: These resources were compiled in September 2005 by the ALSC Quick lists Consulting Committee.