

KUMON connections



NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL CENTER

Tips for An Effective Parent-Teacher Conference

With some schools gearing up for parent-teacher conferences, here are a few proactive steps to ensure an effective parent-teacher conference:

1. Be on time and don't stay past your allotted time.
2. Create a list of specific subjects you want to discuss and prioritize the list. Cover pressing topics first. Don't be afraid to mention that your child is in Kumon and is getting additional assistance if s/he is struggling in either math or reading at school.
3. Introduce yourself with a smile and listen with an open mind.
4. Ask objective questions in a non-confrontational manner.
5. Realize that your child is not perfect. Be prepared to hear about your child's weaknesses. Ask for specific ways your child can improve.
6. Realize you and the teacher are a team, working together in the best interests of your child.
7. End with a sincere "thank you." It will go a long way towards establishing a positive relationship.
8. Sleep on any negative feedback and re-evaluate it the next day once you've had a chance to further process his/her comments.

If your child's teacher felt he or she was behind in math or reading and you are already enrolled in the Kumon program, don't worry, your child will eventually catch up! It probably took months or years for your child to fall behind in school and so your child won't catch up overnight. It will take time, hard work, dedication and lots of practice. Remember, if your child was behind in school when you enrolled, catching up is a marathon, not a sprint. If you have any concerns after your parent-teacher conference, set up a time to speak with your Kumon Instructor to see if Kumon can help address any of the issues brought up during the conference. Sometimes additional worksheets working on specific skills can be added if needed. Remember, parents + your child's school teacher + your Kumon instructor + the child = success!

Kumon of Guilderland

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Congratulations On Passing Your Achievement Test



Andrew Eldeiry, Chand Vadalia, Haanimohammad Virjee,
Kento Yamaguchi, Nageswara Gandham, Shashank Shamshabad,
Taylor Keith, Varun Rapaka, Yash Saxena, Youngho Kim



Congratulations On Moving Up A Level In Junior Kumon

Dildeep Saran, Maya Ravi, Pranav Kalapala, Preethika
Chennupati, Sathvika Jothivenkatesan, Sruthi Kamarajugadda,
Vedika Bhardwaj, Zaid Ashar

Happy January Birthdays To . . .



Anavi Parikh, Aneesh Muppidi, Charles Joseph, Jane Hu,
Sreekar Jammula

Kumon Helps To Stimulate Your Child's Brain Growth!



When a child is engaged in a mental activity, blood flow increases in the specific areas of the brain which are "exercised" by that particular activity. Research suggests simple calculations stimulate more than one area of the brain at a time, in addition to the prefrontal cortex. Similar results have been found when children read orally. This is important because the prefrontal cortex continues to grow until age 20, which means that for the first 20 years of life it should be stimulated daily to obtain optimal growth. Since the Kumon program is based on daily homework, students are not only advancing in their educational studies, but also nourishing their growing brains on a daily basis!

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Dealing With That Mid-Year Slump

As the middle of the school year approaches, many families find they are less motivated to complete the daily work than they were at the beginning of the school year. However, the middle of the school year is when it is most crucial for your child to stay on top of the daily work. At the beginning of each new school year, most schools spend time reviewing what was taught last year. Therefore, weak students are often able to get through the beginning of the year without too much trouble. The real trouble comes during the middle of the year when students are studying all new material. This is when the work becomes increasingly difficult. Students who were struggling at the beginning of the school year will generally find the middle of the school year very difficult and can become quite frustrated. However, with persistence and continued Kumon study your student will continue to make progress toward grade level and will avoid falling further behind.

If YOU are starting to lose motivation, remind yourself why you signed your child up for Kumon in the first place. Had your child been struggling for some time before you enrolled in Kumon? If so, the problem isn't going to be fixed overnight. Learning takes time. In addition, it's important to keep your child's positive momentum moving forward. With a little praise and encouragement from you, your child will continue to make progress, catch up to grade level, and even surpass grade level. YES, your child can get ahead! However, this won't happen if your child quits now. As the parent, you must insist your child complete the daily Kumon assignments, just as you insist that your child wear a seatbelt every time you drive the car. When YOUR CHILD begins to lose motivation (and it happens to all of us at one time or another), remind your child of the progress that has already been made. Stress the fact that, in the long run, Kumon will help make school homework easier and faster to complete. Set goals with your child and provide rewards for completing those goals. Most importantly, praise your child often. Praise is often the best motivator!



Question of the Month: My Child Didn't Complete All of Her Work During the Holidays. What Should We Do To Catch Up?

If your child fell behind on the daily Kumon work during the holiday break, get back on track by doing one assignment each day! Do not try to "make-up" missing assignments by having your child do several assignments in one day. This technique will surely backfire and will likely cause a good deal of frustration on the part of your child. Instead, explain to your child that sometimes the best of intentions are difficult to fulfill and that you are committed to getting back on track with Kumon. Make a verbal or written commitment with your child that he or she will complete the assigned daily work, time the worksheets, and strive for 100% accuracy **with a smile**. Work with your child to create a daily Kumon routine and remind your child that completing Kumon is like brushing your teeth or taking a bath—sometimes you don't feel like it, but you still have to do it every day. Don't let past difficulties keep your child from succeeding in 2008!

Long Term Kumon Study = High Test Scores

In the past students could delay worrying about standardized tests until high school, but today students in elementary and secondary school are taking standardized tests on an annual basis. Can Kumon help students achieve higher scores on these tests? Absolutely! Kumon's emphasis on the mastery of basic math and reading skills gives students a greater understanding of the material and teaches them to avoid careless errors. Timing daily worksheets and tests allows Kumon students to become accustomed to working quickly under pressure. Kumon students can rely on their thorough knowledge of the material rather than test-taking strategies to achieve top scores on standardized tests. Students who complete the Kumon math curriculum through level J and the Kumon Reading program through level L can rest assured that they have mastered more than 90% of the material found on college entrance exams.

