

Information for Parents

Your Child's Calendar at School

As a parent, you are a member of your child's educational team and have essential information to share. If your child's team is considering a calendar, be sure to actively participate in its development. When designing a calendar, the team will need your assistance in many things. For example:

- Completing the assessment regarding time frames
- Selecting the materials to represent past, present and future
- Creating a time piece your child can understand
- Selecting meaningful activities to represent in the calendar



If your team has not considered a calendar, it's a good idea to bring the possibility to their attention.

Using a Calendar at Home

If your child has a calendar at school, you may want to support the effort at home. Follow-up at home is always helpful, and may not require duplicating the entire calendar routine used at school. This is frequently too time consuming for family life. A simplified version may be more appropriate. If you keep it simple, the calendar is more likely to be used successfully at home.



To develop a calendar for the home, consider the following:

- Focus on immediate needs. One mother we know had a child with deafblindness who became extremely aggressive when asked to get in the family car. The mother felt that the reason for this was that the child had been driven to the doctor without prior notice several times. She felt the child associated a ride in the car with impending medical intervention. At school, the child used object symbols and a daily calendar with eight slots. The teacher and child scheduled an entire day each morning. The mother understood the importance of letting her daughter know about upcoming trips in advance, but felt a little overwhelmed by the prospect of scheduling a Saturday to that extent. Instead, the child's home calendar used a simple two slot box and only included a couple of major events for the day. A trip in the car was always clarified (e.g., a trip to the video store to return tapes and a stop at the grocery store to pick up some milk). This helped the home life run more smoothly. Because it fit an immediate need, the mother found it practical to do the calendar.
- Find an accessible spot for the calendar so that it is easy for the family to use as needed.
- Use the symbols from school as much as possible. Sometimes, however, symbols are needed regarding people or situations at home that do not come up at school (e.g., a symbol for a good friend of the family). When that occurs, collaborate with a teacher to make a new symbol.