

# La CASITA Preschool

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- ☉ 3-5 years old
- ☉ enrolling now
- ☉ small student to teacher ratio
- ☉ nurturing and fun environment

**989-2508**

## School Notes



By Heather Ramsey

### Mid-Year Review

Planning a Meeting with the Teacher

*How can I best prepare for a mid-year review with my child's teacher?*

Dear Parent,

Scheduling a mid-year review with your child's teacher is an excellent idea, whether your child is performing well or not. Going into the second semester with a clear picture of the first semester reaps several benefits. By mid-year at least two report cards have come home. Because the second semester builds on the knowledge gained in the first, these report cards often reflect the future success or failure of your child's second semester. A drastic change from the first and second quarter report cards, whether as an improvement or decline, should be the focus of the mid-year review along with test scores and any irregular behavior issues.

Common questions that ought to be asked include: Does your child hand in his or her homework? Is it on time and correct? Does your child appear attentive or is he not paying enough attention in class? Does your child seem bored or act out? Experts say the answers to these questions can be a sign of different problems and are not excuses. Low test scores require the need for extra attention that allows your child to catch up before the work becomes increasingly difficult.

Mid-year is an excellent time to review your child's study habits as well. Discuss current study habits with the teacher. It may be that these habits need some tweaking, especially as the second semester becomes more difficult and preparations for several upcoming exams begin.

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What does your child have to say? Be sure to include your child in these discussions. The mid-year review is for their benefit and receiving their feedback will help to fill in any gaps in communication with the teacher. Ask your child if he takes the situation seriously (i.e. falling grades)? How does he plan to improve his grades? If your child is performing well, praise him and ask him how he plans to maintain his efforts. Having a frank and supportive conversation with your child will impress upon him how much you believe in his ability to do better, if that is what is needed.

Whether your child is doing well in school or falling behind, a mid-year discussion with her teacher is a super way to keep the lines of communication open. If a difficult situation should arise, you will have more knowledge, and will therefore be better prepared to handle it. Staying in touch with your child's teacher is a supportive and essential part of his development. Needless to say, it shows your child that you care, and as a parent that is an important message to send.

*Albemarle County School Board meets the 2nd and 4th Thurs. of each month at 6:30pm, Rm. 241, County Office Bldg. at 401 McIntire Road. Charlottesville City School Board meets of the first Thurs. of each month (study session) and the 3rd Thurs. (business session) at 7pm at the CHS Booker Reeves Media Center at 1562 Dairy Road.*

*Please send your "School Notes" questions to Editor@AlbemarleFamily.com or by mail 4282 Ivy Road Charlottesville, VA 22903.*

*Heather Ramsey is a UVa graduate with years of varied instructional and classroom experience.*





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