



Situation

Reflection...

- Teacher A** How have your parent volunteers been going? I haven't seen Karen's mom and Yoonho's mom for a while.
- Teacher B** Yeah, they haven't shown up for a while. They were really good the first few months but I don't know what happened.
- Teacher A** You had more volunteers than me signed up at the beginning of the year. What happened?
- Teacher B** I'm not sure. How have you been able to keep all yours? You always have Julie's mom come every Monday, and Jack's mom and a few other parents come, it seems like, every week.
- Teacher A** I don't know. I just started off with a sign up calendar and I suggested ways parents could help out...and I also asked for their suggestions of what they would be interested in and comfortable doing.
- Teacher B** I did that too...
- Teacher A** And then I always make sure I have whatever I want them to do that day ready ahead of time...together with any materials I think they might need.
- Teacher B** Yeah...I'm not really good about that.
- Teacher A** I find it makes a big difference. Otherwise, I'm scrambling around trying to figure out what to have them do. I end up wasting some of my time with students and I can't always find something good for the parent to do on the spot. I didn't use to do that but I didn't like it when the parent kept interrupting my teaching to ask me questions. Now, I also jot down a little memo if there's something new for them to do or as a reminder.
- Teacher B** I really need to do a better job of that. It's good advice.
- Teacher A** Also, I learned a good idea from Sallie. She has one spot in her room set aside for parent volunteers. She has a desk set up, it's labeled for parent volunteers, and materials all neatly arranged, things that they usually need. I thought it was a good idea.
- Teacher B** That is a good idea. And it probably makes them feel welcomed.

Comment [KMT1]: This is a good sign! Parents want to be involved and Teacher B is trying to welcome parents into the classroom. The key is to figure out how to keep the consistency of everyone's motivation to be involved.

Comment [KMT2]: 1) Have a visual representation, 2) Allow parents to choose the day/time convenient for them.

Comment [KMT3]: Give parents ideas of your needs.

Comment [KMT4]: Create a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere by listening to parents' opinions. It may not work with your system (and therefore kindly decline) but you may find a parent's strength you didn't know about.

Comment [KMT5]: Teacher B is off to a great start by setting up a well organized volunteer system.

Comment [KMT6]: 1) Have what you want the parent volunteer to do ready ahead of time, 2) Prepare any necessary materials including scissors, glue, etc. ready and available.

Comment [KMT7]: The few minutes preparing ahead of time allows 1) better use of your parent volunteer and 2) more efficient use of time, and not losing time when you're supposed to be with students.

Comment [KMT8]: A "memo" 1) encourages you to be prepared and organized, 2) shows the parent the thought you've put in the task, 3) is a communication tool, especially helpful for non-native English speaking parents.

Comment [KMT9]: Teaching is a learning experience. With an open mind and a good attitude, you can always develop and improve yourself.

Comment [KMT10]: 1) designated area, 2) comfortable (desk, chair, necessary materials), 3) welcoming (volunteer sign, children's work)