

## Conversation Starters

Pick a few questions from each area when calling or visiting with families.

### Learning about the student

- Tell me a bit about your child.
- What do they enjoy at school and outside of school?
- What are your favorite things about your child? How would you describe your child? What are your child's greatest strengths or skills?
- What are they looking forward to learning or doing this year?
- Does your child have dislikes we should know about (e.g. taking naps or specific foods)?
- Are there any challenges we should know about? (e.g. physical, emotional, behavioral, or learning issues.)
- Do you have any worries about the year ahead?

### Learning about the family

- Who are the important people in your child's life?
- What languages are spoken at home? Do you prefer we speak or write to you in a particular language?
- How and when would you like me to reach out to you? What should we communicate with you about?
- Is there anything that your family wants to share with our class this year? (e.g. skills, traditions, customs, etc.)
- What was your school experience in this grade? How do you remember that year of school?
- Is there anything else that would be helpful for us to know about your family?

### Hopes & Dreams:

- What have you noticed at home? Where do you think your child needs to grow this year?
- What do you hope we cover in class this year?
- What are your hopes or goals for your child this year (for example, read on their own, get more comfortable with groups, etc.)?
- Next June, what do you hope your child says about their experience in school this year? What's the story you hope they will tell?

