

# GETTING STARTED



***My child's not doing well at school. Who can I turn to for help?***

**Your child's teacher** – Your child's teacher knows your child best. Teachers are able to present you with work samples that might allay your fears, or have data that suggest your concerns should be pursued.

**Your child's school principal** – Principals serve as the educational and policy leader of your child's school. Principals are a great source of information about school-wide issues. If you are in conflict with your child's teacher, consulting the principal can be very helpful.

**Your Student Study Team** – If you have already begun the SST process, team members can be a valuable resource for problem-solving, and to find out more about supports available in your child's school.

***See the next two links for tips on confidentiality and communicating via telephone & e-mail.***

This Resource Parent Handbook is meant to be a living document, based upon your needs as a concerned parent. We suggest you print out the first section, and add your personal notes in a three-ring binder. That way, all of your records will be in one place. Should your child require assessment, you can then add the section on Assessment and Initial IEPs.

If you have not already done so, it is always a good idea to create a paper record of everything that occurs around your concerns for your child. Start with copies of emails sent to school staff stating your concerns, and emails to document the verbal discussions that follow. All requests also need to be made ***in writing***. Put copies of all of these documents into a binder in chronological order. It is also good practice to include report cards and samples of your child's home- and classwork.

And, again, remember you don't have to go it alone! Make sure to network with other parents and to investigate the many excellent parent support groups available in the community. If you would like additional information or training opportunities, visit the RPC website ([www.rpc.org](http://www.rpc.org)) frequently to find out what is available in your area.