

FOLLOW-UP GUIDELINES FOR TEACHERS OF CHILDREN

1. Ask teachers to telephone one or more children in their class—visitors, absentees, or regular members. Children enjoy phone calls. A brief conversation can tell an absent child he was missed, encourage a child for good work last Sunday, or remind a child of a coming event or activity.
2. Suggest that teachers send a short note to each child, thanking him/her for something they have done in class.
3. Encourage teachers to make a point of greeting a visitor's parents on the first Sunday and to tell the parents about one specific experience their child enjoyed during the session. Make an appointment with the parents to briefly explain the program.
4. If a teacher has not made a home visit before, have an experienced teacher go as a partner the first time or two. Suggest taking a student's book and possibly a few snapshots of the child in the classroom.
5. One of the most effective contact plans is for a teacher to invite a couple of children at a time to come to his/her home. This can be done on Sunday afternoon or after school. Children that have been indifferent or difficult may undergo dramatic attitude changes as a result of having a good time with the teacher in a casual setting. The advantage of inviting two children is that they entertain each other and stronger friendships are built. Some teachers make a point of combining one child who attends regularly with one who is new or attends irregularly. (Ask the children ahead of time what they like to eat. Keep it simple and let them help with the preparation.)
6. When teachers have had experience and success contacting class members, visitors, and their families, they feel more confident about contacting prospects.