

Chapter 3

Traveling Notes

Parents and teachers may find themselves at odds about how to teach children particularly children with special needs. Conversations in teacher's lounges often center on this. What were your reactions to the stories told in the gathering at Jan's home? What do you think should be done to help John in his frustration at the school? What are the many ways in which teachers connect with and support families in concrete ways? Do you know other teachers who have helped parents in ways that Jeanette and Frieda described? How did these teachers manage to support families in this way while teaching children all day?

Why do parents feel welcome in some schools and classes and not in others?

The sense of relationship and personal connection seemed important to these parents in this meeting. Yet, often in schools you hear people say that "You can't get parents to come to a meeting unless you give them food or raffle a prize." Think about this.

How can we communicate with parents about challenges their children are having academically or behaviorally in our classes and yet build a relationship with them?

Reflections and Responses