A social conference is a one-on-one meeting between teacher and student that addresses, without judgment, a specific social or behavior problem. The main objective of the social conference is to solve an immediate problem. However, the outcomes are often broader. When teachers notice and urge children to notice, they teach the discipline of self-awareness and self-determination.

Social Conference Guidelines

- Use a kind but businesslike manner.
- Speak to the student in private.
- Recognize something positive the student does.
- Be prepared to propose some options and to accept options from the student.
- Be prepared to end the conference at any point if the student becomes defensive or resistant.
- If a student is resistant and you need to end the conference, be sure you state the expectations for behavior before leaving the conference.
- Leave options open for student and teacher.
- Keep conferences as short as possible.
- Avoid lectures or sermons.
- Focus on solving the immediate problem.
Social Conference Planning Sheet

1. Noticing
   I'm noticing...
   What do you notice?
or Do you notice that?

2. Naming
   What is your job?
   What do the rules say?

3. Understanding
   Why do you think you do that? Why would I think...
   Could it be...

4. Alternatives
   We need to make it better. How are you going to stop...
   How can I help? How will you show that...

5. Practice

6. Agree to try
   Let's check back [time, date] to see how it's going.
   I'll check with you at [time, date] to see how it's going.
   * Make sure you check back!