Orthophonie VoxLingue Speech and Language

Printable card

After school: the "I'll go first" routine, twelve questions, five questions for the teacher

At 5 to 7, "nothing" on its own is usually not a sign of a language difficulty. The day is long, the question is broad, and it comes at the wrong moment. Pick a calm time: supper, bath time or bedtime.

1. I go first

When?	"This morning..."
Where?	"at work..."
Who?	"my coworker Julie..."
How I felt	"I was so embarrassed, then we laughed."

2. One question, then I wait

"What about you? What did you play at recess?" **If they tell you something:** respond to what they said. **If they say "I don't know":** go back to your story and try again at bedtime.

Never ask them to answer or to repeat.

Twelve specific questions, one at a time

RECESS
- What did you play outside?
- Who did you play ball with?

LUNCH
- Who did you sit next to at lunch?
- What did you eat first?

GYM
- What did you do in the gym today?
- What was your favourite game in gym?

CLASS
- What story did your teacher read?
- What did you pick at free play?

SCHOOL DAYCARE
- Who did you play with after school?
- What did you do outside this afternoon?

AT HOME
- What made you laugh today?
- Oh, an owl! How did you make it? (the craft)

AVOID ~~"Did you like your day?" (yes or no)~~ ~~"What did you do today?" (too vague)~~

Five questions for the teacher

When they tell something in class, can people follow it?	
Can they explain how to do a task or a game?	
Do they follow a group conversation?	
Do you see the same thing we see at home?	
If you have a concern, who should we talk to at school?	

In Québec: first written communication **by October 15**, first report card **by November 20** (kindergarten too). The meeting date depends on the school: check its calendar. In Ontario: elementary progress report card (Grades 1 to 8) between October 20 and November 20.

"Nothing", plus another sign?

Trouble retelling a story or explaining how to do something, sentences hard to follow in all their languages, or the teacher notices it too: **talk to the teacher**, the way in to services at school age. The doctor if you wish, and a private consultation at the same time, no referral needed. A sudden change: the teacher first, for their well-being.

Sources: Navigateurs school speech-language pathologists (2021, 2022, in French); Naître et grandir (2025); Alloprof Parents; Québec Basic school regulation, s. 29 to 29.2 (in French); Ontario, Growing Success (2010). **General information: this card does not replace an assessment.**