

COMMONLY ASKED PARENT QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS:

1. How often should I log in to the portfolio?

Log in to the portfolio as often as you like. Logging in at least once a week with your child is advisable to stay up to date and encourage conversations about their learning.

2. How should I talk to my child about what I see?

Invite open-ended conversation such as: “Can you tell me about...” “How does this connect to your unit of inquiry?” “What learner profile trait do you think this connects to?” “What is your next goal and what steps can we take together to get you there?” “What were the reasons you chose this to be in your portfolio?”

Keep it positive to help your child feel open about sharing.

It may take time for parents to feel comfortable commenting on and guiding their children’s learning in a digital space. Face to face conversations are always best and a great way to start. Please continue to communicate with your child’s teacher in a way that works best for your family. You might also look to the teacher’s comments as a model and jump in whenever you feel comfortable.

3. How often should I give written feedback to the teacher and to my child in the portfolio?

This really depends on the other ways you communicate with your child and his or her teacher. Parents who are not able to be in the school very often might find it helpful to post a question or comment once a week to stay connected. Interact with the portfolio as much as you need to maintain meaningful insight into your child’s learning. Only your child and your child’s teacher see your comments. The portfolio is not intended to replace other modes of communication so please continue to call, have face-to-face conversations, or other modes of communication that work best for you and the teacher.

4. What types of comments are helpful to my child’s learning?

Instead of saying, good job, or using emoticons consider “I like the way you are...” “I’m proud of you for...” “I think you showed great communication skills when you...” “When I was your age I felt so nervous presenting and I can see you are calm and confident, well done”

Specific comments help the child become more aware of what they are doing – which is a powerful part of learning.

5. How can I help my child at home?

Try to stay connected and check the portfolio often so that your child’s learning needs are being met in a timely fashion throughout the year.

Research and experience tells us that parent engagement is key to a student’s success in school. Consider shifting the commonly asked question “how was school today?” to “I noticed _____ from looking at your portfolio today, tell me more about that?”

6. If I am having trouble using the portfolios, what should I do?

Please let your classroom teacher know and give feedback at support.freshgrade.com.