Your approach as a parent when your child has difficulty at school makes a huge difference to their resilience, and their future relationships with teachers and peers.

Every parent wants the best for their children, and that includes having great experiences at school. By and large, schools deliver on these expectations. They are generally safe places for kids, staffed by hard-working teachers who have the best interests of their students at heart. Achievement, discipline and student well-being are high on the list of priorities for most teachers.

Despite best teaching practice things do go wrong at school. Most kids experience learning difficulties from time to time. Conflict and peer rejection are a normal part of school-life. The developmental nature of childhood means that there will always be some turbulence, particularly around key transition ages, such as the start of adolescence. During these times young people frequently experience a dip in their learning as well as significant relationship difficulties. Kids will often come home from school with grievances and call on their parents for assistance.

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ievances.

This not only presents a danger to teachers but harms the all-important teacher-parent relationship.

1. Stay calm and rational

some unfair or poor treatment. But acting when you are full of emotion is not always smart. Rather than getting on the phone straight away to organise a meeting at school, take your time to think through how you might assist your child.

2. Get all the facts

one side of a story when the

perhaps they may have contributed inadvertently to a dispute at school, or perhaps said something that may hat happens in an incident, so that all the facts

emerge and understand their place in any problem. Ask good questions to help the full story emerge.

3. Assess whether to go to school or not

Kids, like adults, like to vent and will benefit from having told their side of a story to a trusted source. Often problems can be dealt with at home, simply by talking through an issue, and giving kids some common sense tips to help them cope.

If your chi

coordinator.

4. Go through the right channels

approach them directly.

5. Look for solutions rather than blame

Parent-

different perspective. 6. Stay in touch

-term, which

means you need to keep communicating with each other. Parenting is easy when things are going well, but 8 0 59.56 \$2.04 re NBT/1