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# My Name is **Fatima**



Based on “Welcome Parents”



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# My Name is Fatima



**My name is Fatima.**

**This is my friend, Carmen.**

**We are at my son's school.**

**We are talking to the parent coordinator.**



**This is my son's school.**

**My son goes to school in Brooklyn.**

**My son's name is Ismael.**

**Ismael likes school.**

**But, he likes soccer more than school!**



**This is my son, Ismael.**

**Ismael is watching soccer on TV with his dad.**

**I have a letter from school.**

**I show my husband, Sayeed, the letter.**

**The letter says  
the parent-teacher conferences are next week.**



**I want to be prepared.**

**I call my friend Carmen for advice.**

**Carmen's daughter goes to my son's school.**

**Maybe Carmen has good advice.**



**Carmen and I decide to call 311.**

**311 is the telephone number for  
New York City information.**

**Carmen calls 311 and asks for  
the phone number of the parent coordinator  
at our children's school.**



**Carmen says,**

**“Can I have the telephone number of  
the parent coordinator for P.S. 303  
in Brooklyn?”**

**Carmen writes down the number for the  
parent coordinator at the school.**



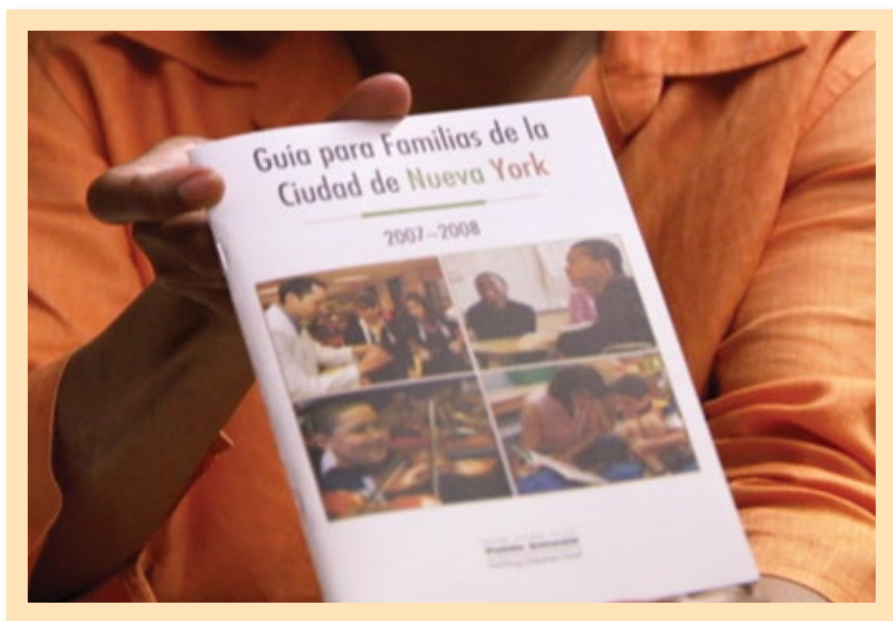


**The next day, Carmen and I meet with the parent coordinator of our children's school.**

**Her job is to help parents with questions about school.**

**She is very helpful.**

**She listens to all our questions.**



**She has useful information.**

**She gives us the *New York City Family Guide*.**

**The guide has information for parents with children  
in New York City public schools.**

**The *Family Guide* is available in eight languages.**



**The parent coordinator gives me  
a *Family Guide* in Arabic.**

**She gives Carmen a *Family Guide* in Spanish.**

**She says, “You are natural leaders.  
If you can speak with me,  
you can speak with anyone.”**



**Carmen and I are happy.**

**But, we are still nervous about using  
English at the parent-teacher conferences.**

**Last year we didn't understand anything.**

**I have an idea...**



**“Let’s call some other parents.  
We can prepare for the parent-teacher  
conferences together.”**

**Carmen agrees.**

**We make a list of questions to ask the  
teacher at the parent-teacher conferences.**

**Carmen says, “Let’s practice them together.”**



**This is Pierre.**

**Pierre's son goes to my son's school.**

**He meets us in the park on Saturday to practice.**

**At first Pierre says, "I don't think I can do it."**

**But I say, "Yes, you can."**



**Pierre practices the questions:**

***Is there any extra reading I can give my son?***

***Is my child doing his homework every night?***

***Can you please slow down and explain  
what you mean?***



**This is Ming.**  
**Ming's daughter goes to my son's school.**  
**Ming is worried, too.**  
**She says,**  
**"Sometimes asking questions is not easy."**





**We all agree it is not easy.**

**We make a plan.**

**We will meet again next Saturday.**

**We will practice asking questions  
out loud together.**



**When Carmen gets home, she talks to  
her husband, Juan.**

**She explains the plan.**

**“I met with the other parents.**

**We are getting ready for the parent-teacher  
conferences.”**



**Carmen says,**

**“We are getting together next Saturday  
and you should come.**

**Parents need to get involved.**

**You should get involved, too.**

**We need to help our daughter.”**



**The next week, Juan and Sayeed come to  
the park with us.**

**But, they don't want to practice questions.**

**They want to play soccer!**



**We start to practice our questions.**

**We laugh at our mistakes.**

**We have a good time.**

**Now, Juan and Sayeed want to get involved!**



**Finally, the night of the parent-teacher conferences arrives.**

**Sayeed and Juan are ready.**



**Juan asks,  
“Can I get my daughter’s  
report card in Spanish?”**



**Sayeed asks,  
“How can I help my son with his reading?”**





**The teacher is very happy.  
She says, “My door is always open.”**



**Carmen and I are very proud.  
We are proud of our husbands.  
And, we are proud of each other.**

# Words used in this story

- advice
- agree
- anyone
- anything
- arrive
- ask
- be
- call
- can
- come
- day
- decide
- do
- door
- explain
- family: child, children, dad, daughter, husband, parents, son
- friend
- get involved
- get ready
- get together
- give
- go
- guide
- have
- help
- homework
- idea
- information
- job
- languages: Arabic, English, Spanish
- laugh
- leader
- letter
- like
- list
- listen
- make
- mean
- meet
- mistake
- name
- need
- night
- number: phone number, telephone number
- parent coordinator
- parent-teacher conferences
- park
- plan
- play
- practice
- prepare
- question
- report card
- reading, extra reading
- say
- school
- show
- slow down
- soccer
- speak
- start
- talk
- teacher
- think
- time
- TV
- understand
- use
- want
- watch
- week
- write down
- year

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