

My Kids' School Was So Exasperating!

Gabriela Ibanez

BEFORE YOU READ: Is there anything about your kids' school that you find exasperating?

In Mexico, Too Much Contact

Since I moved to the U.S., I noticed a big difference between schools in Mexico and schools in the U.S. The biggest difference is that in the U.S., parents are only required to visit the school for conferences or special events. I take my son to the bus stop every morning. The bus takes him to school. At school, he gets breakfast and lunch. In the afternoon, I go back to the bus stop to pick him up. And that is only because he is a young child. My older son comes and goes by himself.

Can you believe that?

In the U.S., I Enjoy the Peace of Not Knowing

In my country, I have to face the traffic every morning and every afternoon to bring my sons to school and then bring them home. Every day, my phone is full of notifications regarding my sons' school. Mothers ask about homework, festivals, and meetings. They give their opinions about the teachers' skills and the behavior of the other children. The teachers frequently ask for help from parents to organize things in the classroom or to fix something. So much school contact made me feel exasperated. Having news from the school all the time was tiring.

Here, everything is very different. When I first came here, I was shocked and confused. How would I be informed about things at school? I used to know what was happening at every moment, but now, I enjoy the peace of not knowing. Here in the U.S., people's time is respected, and each person does what they have to do.

Except It Is a Little Lonely

On the other hand, this situation makes it almost impossible for a new mother in the school to make

friends with other mothers. I never see them. This is something I miss about the schools in my country.

My sons, however, are fine. They are enthusiastic about their new school.

They made new friends, and they don't care about their mother's social troubles.



We Are Less Exasperated

My sons say that school in the U.S. is easier than in Mexico. They say that in the U.S., they don't need to learn many things that they will probably never need. In Mexico, educational programs are full of information that students must learn. This information is often repeated year after year, but it only increases in difficulty. Students feel very tired of it in the end.

I am aware that I speak from my privilege. We have been lucky to be in very good schools both in Mexico and in the U.S. My sons are good students. I understand that other immigrants have different experiences. This is just my experience. I can say that here in the U.S., I no longer feel so exasperated by my children's school.

AFTER YOU READ: The author says she enjoys the "peace of not knowing everything" about her kids' school. On the other hand, it's hard for her to meet other mothers. Write about something that has two sides to it. Use "on the one hand" and "on the other hand" in your sentences.

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