

## **Lesson #27: *Preparing for a "Parent-Business" Discussion***

**Divorced Fathers Network  
Advocates Of Shared Parenting  
'Because Children Love Both Their Parents'**

### **Preparing for a "Parent-Business" Discussion:**

1. Prepare yourself emotionally. Since all or some of the discussion has emotional triggers, focus on being businesslike.
2. Use direct communication. Neither children nor friends transfer or interpret information. All information comes directly from one parent to the other.
3. Expect a business meeting only. Do not expect emotional support or approval. Do not take the other parent for granted.
4. Prepare for the discussion or transaction. Set up an appointment, have an agenda, ask for the most convenient time, meet in a neutral place.
5. The content of the discussion should be only one or two items, and be about the children only. No personal disclosure, and keep a low profile.
6. Make the style of the discussion or conversation informal, but on the subject. Be courteous. Be specific, rather than vague. Be questioning rather than judgmental.
7. Make phone calls during normal business hours, or by mutual agreement.
8. Employ good record keeping. Make notes or memos after each conversation to record the details of agreements.
9. Verify agreements by sending a note or memo to the other parent itemizing the agreement and asking for verification.

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