

My Name Is Fatima

Adapted from “Welcome Parents,”
an episode of “We Are New York,”
a new way to learn English on TV.

www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish

Adaptation by Hillary Gardner for the
CUNY Adult Literacy Programs (June 2010)





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.

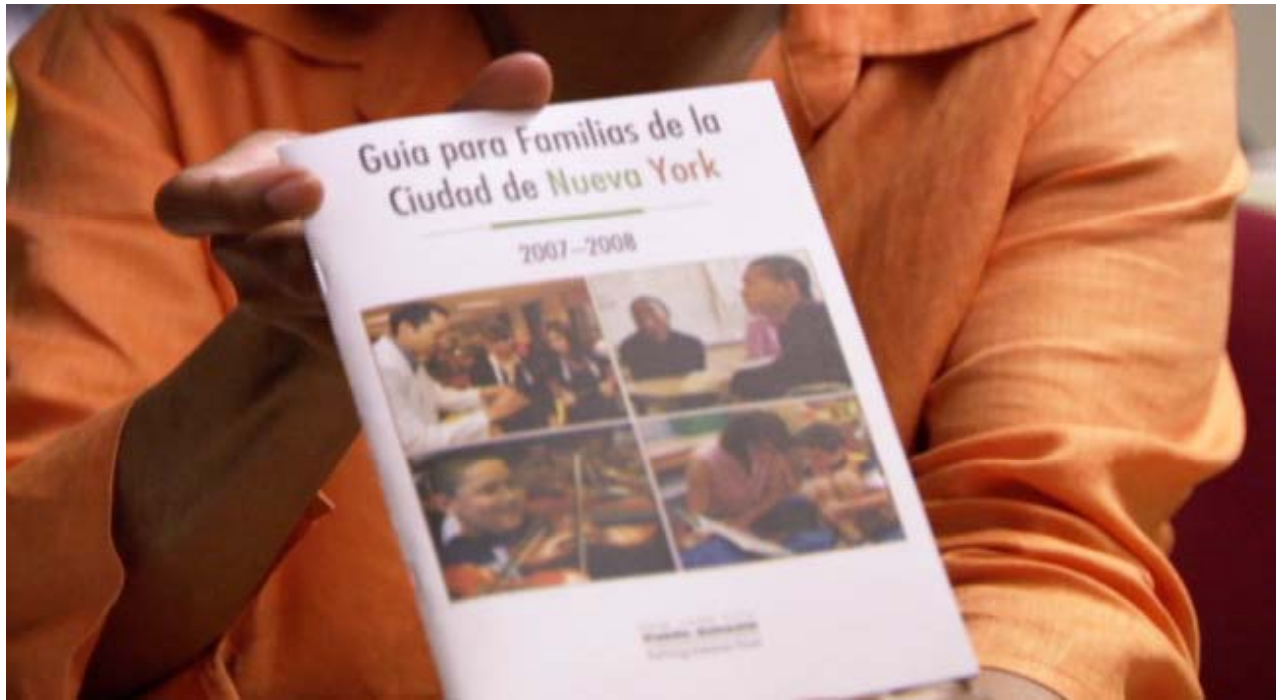


The next day, Carmen and I meet with the parent coordinator of our children's school.

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a good time | <input type="checkbox"/> agree, agrees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> advice | <input type="checkbox"/> arrive, arrives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> anyone | <input type="checkbox"/> ask, asks, asking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> anything | <input type="checkbox"/> be: are, is |
| <input type="checkbox"/> door | <input type="checkbox"/> call, calls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> family: children, dad,
daughter, husband,
parents, son | <input type="checkbox"/> can |
| <input type="checkbox"/> friend | <input type="checkbox"/> come |
| <input type="checkbox"/> guide | <input type="checkbox"/> decide |
| <input type="checkbox"/> idea | <input type="checkbox"/> do, don't |
| <input type="checkbox"/> information | <input type="checkbox"/> explain, explains |
| <input type="checkbox"/> job | <input type="checkbox"/> get, getting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> homework | <input type="checkbox"/> give, gives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> languages: Arabic,
English, Spanish | <input type="checkbox"/> go, goes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> leader | <input type="checkbox"/> have, has |
| <input type="checkbox"/> letter | <input type="checkbox"/> help |
| <input type="checkbox"/> list | <input type="checkbox"/> laugh |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mistake | <input type="checkbox"/> like, likes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> name | <input type="checkbox"/> listen, listens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> number: phone
number, telephone
number | <input type="checkbox"/> make |
| <input type="checkbox"/> parent coordinator | <input type="checkbox"/> mean |
| <input type="checkbox"/> parent-teacher
conferences | <input type="checkbox"/> meet, meets, met |
| <input type="checkbox"/> park | <input type="checkbox"/> need |
| <input type="checkbox"/> plan | <input type="checkbox"/> play |
| <input type="checkbox"/> questions | <input type="checkbox"/> practice, practices |
| <input type="checkbox"/> reading, extra reading | <input type="checkbox"/> prepare |
| <input type="checkbox"/> school, public school | <input type="checkbox"/> say, says |
| <input type="checkbox"/> soccer | <input type="checkbox"/> should |
| <input type="checkbox"/> teacher | <input type="checkbox"/> show |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TV | <input type="checkbox"/> slow down |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> speak |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> start |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> talk, talking |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> think |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> understand |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> use, using |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> want |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> watch, watching |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> write, writes |