

What If...

There is an event at your children's school this evening. You would like to attend. You love your children and want them to do well in school and you care about their education. However, what if your situation is complicated? Try to picture yourself in the below situations and imagine what it feels like for families dealing with these circumstances.

What if...	How likely would you be to attend the event?	How could this event be adapted to increase the likelihood of your attendance?
1. You have three young children, no child care, and no family support.		
2. You don't have a car and live a long distance from the bus stop.		
3. You don't speak English and know, from experience, that there will not be a translator at this event.		
4. You live in a dangerous neighborhood and do not like to take your children out at night.		
5. You have been ignored or treated rudely by school personnel.		
6. You live in a culture where your husband expects you to be at home in the evening.		
7. You had bad experiences in school and do not wish to relive those memories.		
8. You blame yourself for your child's difficulties in school.		
9. You have to work evenings, which is when all school events are held.		
10. You do not speak like, look like, or dress like other parents at the school and have been made to feel "left out."		

Adapted from Henderson, Mapp, Johnson, and Davies, 2007.