Some Thoughts on Home Visits

First, each visit conversation needs to follow logically from the previous visit.  This means taking notes during the visit or immediately afterwards.  I have taken notes during the visits and it did not seem to interrupt the flow or the spiritual nature of the conversation, but rather seemed to indicate that I was taking seriously the suggestions from the parents.  Which I was.

Second, the teacher needs to come prepared to share at least two observations about the child's special gifts and talents...  helpfulness, focus, good listening, enthusiasm... and give specific examples.  This trains us as teachers to take notice of each child's virtues, to think about that child in terms of her virtues.  And I've heard parents exclaim in joy that THEY knew their child had those gifts, but they were not sure others noticed.  We notice.

Third, brainstorm with the parents how they can become an integral part of the class, and be prepared to follow up with them.  If I lived in Del Sur, I would love to invite a parent or two over to help me for one hour a week to prep art materials for the class.