

25 Ways to Build Relationships with your Students

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- 1. Smile...at every kid you see... at every adult you run into at school!!**
- 2. Laugh...with your students and at yourself.**
- 3. Be excited about what you teach!! Show your students that you want to be there!**
- 4. Be ok to fail and be vulnerable...even in front of your students.**
- 5. Say you are sorry when you make a mistake in handling a child or situation.**
- 6. Greet and Meet...greet each student at the door, but have a different student stand with you at the door each day.**
- 7. Say hello to every student AND every adult you run into in the hall.**
- 8. Share parts of yourself with your students (Pop in your 8th grade pic into your Powerpoint or flipchart)**
- 9. Learn names...quickly...and pronounce them correctly.**
- 10. Utilize brain boosters (Gonoodle.com or youtube/type in brain breaks)**
- 11. Give kids a chance to get it right. In other words for minor behavior issues, such as having their cell phone out...don't take it, instead explain to the student the policy and give them a**

- chance to put it away and get it right. If cell phone comes out again then most definitely take the phone.**
- 12. Listen to your students and follow up with what they tell you.**
 - 13. Find out the interests of your students and mention those interests at a convenient time.**
 - 14. Be honest and genuine. (Never promise a child something you can't deliver)**
 - 15. Be firm, consistent, but empathic when disciplining your students. Meaning it is the behavior you do not like, not the child.**
 - 16. Tell Knock, Knock Jokes, pose Would You Rather Questions or show funny You Tube Clips.**
 - 17. Get your "Quirk" on...in other words act silly sometimes and embrace every minute of it!! And if acting silly is NOT something YOU are comfortable with...be ok if your kids act silly once in a while.**
 - 18. Learn the latest slang and toss it out there every once in a while. (Make sure you know EXACTLY what it means☺)**
 - 19. Give specific feedback, not just good job. (In other words, tell them exactly why you thought they did that was a good job)**

20. **Tell kids you care about them....and mean it!! If you don't mean it...don't say it...kids will know immediately if you are not genuine.**
21. **Use some form of random call so you are hearing all voices in your classroom...not just from the students who are outgoing.**
22. **Create lessons that are engaging and fun and ask for input from your students on how they liked the activities/exercises you did for that particular lesson. Ask students what they would change.**
23. **Give students an out when melting down in your class. (In other words, if a student is about to cry give them a pass for a drink and brief walk to pull themselves together)**
24. **ALWAYS...ALWAYS...ALWAYS...touch base with a student after you have had to send them to the office or ISS (In School Suspension) before they return to your class. This might mean giving up part of your prep time to go find the student and have a brief reconnection. You are rebuilding a relationship.**
25. **Be deliberate in building relationships....make relationship building a part of your lesson plan. (That could be as simple as greeting each student as they come in to your classroom, to developing a name game/community building activity, to facilitating a brief share time).**

Keep in mind there are countless ways to build relationships with your students. But relationships don't just happen...you have to go out there and make them happen. Relationship building should be as

systematic and deliberate as implementing more rigor, technology, or differentiation. Also, remember that a relationship is only that unless you are willing to leverage that relationship and push kids to heights they never imagined were possible.