

20 +1 Ideas for Building Positive Relationships with Your Students

1. Initiate conversations with students.
2. Treat students the way you like to be treated.
3. Get to know your students as individuals - learn who likes sports, TV, school activities, or music so you can initiate conversations with them.
4. Protect the student's self-esteem.
5. Individualize.
6. Be fair. Remember that fair doesn't necessarily mean "exactly the same."
7. Make discipline corrections quietly, quickly and privately if possible.
8. Avoid sarcastic or condescending comments. Sarcasm from an educator is never appropriate.
9. Catch students being "good."
10. Apologize when you make a mistake.
11. Listen effectively to students (listen to understand, restate or paraphrase, acknowledge feelings).
12. Accept and celebrate differences.
13. Give people your time.
14. Strengthen communication skills so that misunderstandings are unlikely.
15. Manage mobile technology so it does not distract you from the people around you.
16. Learn to give and take feedback.
17. Learn to build trust and to trust in others.
18. Develop empathy for what it feels like to be one of your students.
19. Make home visits.
20. Share information with the teaching team about your successful connections with specific students.
21. Have fun, play games, laugh at yourself.