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# Strategies for Building Relationships with Learners



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Pathway  
2 SUCCESS



Embrace their individuality



Look for the positive every day



Make sure your eyes light up when you see them



Remember little things about their lives



Give special responsibilities



Greet by name every morning



Invite students to eat lunch with you



Don't take tough days personally



Be a little silly sometimes



Go to sports games or activities



Apologize when you mess up



Tell them you care about them

Here are 50+ ways you can work on building relationships with your students:

1. Say good morning.
2. Learn how to properly pronounce their name.
3. Make sure your eyes light up when you see them.
4. Look for the positive every day.
5. Greet by name every day.
6. Let them teach you about their interests and hobbies.
7. Keep a "student tracker" to make note of key details to remember.
8. Set meaningful and reasonable expectations.
9. Be consistent and dependable.
10. Set boundaries.
11. Be true to your word.
12. Embrace their individuality.
13. Ask for updates on interests and hobbies.
14. Use a respectful tone of voice.
15. Learn interesting and unique facts about them.
16. Show them pictures from your life.
17. Go to sports or other after-school activities.

18. Discuss hopes and dreams.
19. Learn their lingo.
20. Listen to their ideas.
21. Have them bring something in to share.
22. Tell them you missed them after an absence.
23. Conference weekly or monthly to work on goals.
24. Offer choices when possible.
25. Use interests in activities.
26. Start fresh every day.
27. Share about your own life.
28. Be a little silly sometimes.
29. Write positive notes about progress.
30. Share inspirational moments from your life.
31. Be flexible for individual needs.
32. Teach skills they are lacking.
33. Pick your battles for behavior challenges.
34. Talk to them about non-school related topics.
35. Apologize when you mess up.
36. Tell funny stories from your own life.
37. Play games with them.
38. Celebrate their birthday.
39. Give special responsibilities.
40. Let them know you care about them.
41. Laugh with them.
42. Stay calm in times of stress.
43. Give a high-five or fist bump when they do a wonderful job.
44. Remember the unique things about their lives.
45. Just be there to listen.
46. Be fun, but firm.
47. Help them problem-solve through challenges.
48. Admit when you do not know something.
49. Let them know you see their effort.
50. Ask about their favorite music (and listen to it).
51. Do not take tough days personally.
52. Respect when they do not want to talk.
53. Invite students to eat lunch with you.
54. Model kind behavior.
55. Allow for (and accept) mistakes.
56. Positively communicate with families.
57. Repair the relationship after a fallout.
58. Give specific feedback and praise.
59. Give constructive criticism when they need it.
60. Have them help you with chores and small tasks.
61. Remind kids of their strengths.
62. Do special things for them (bringing in something that reminds you of them).
63. Start a lunch group.

64. Start an after-school club.
65. Celebrate successes and wins (even small ones).
66. Say goodbye each day.
67. Read with them.
68. Listen more than you talk during conversations.
69. Be a positive role model.
70. Reflect on how to improve.