

Tips for Building Positive Relationships with Students

- **Greet your students at the door.**

Start each day with a smile and a personal greeting for each and every student. Stand at the door as your students enter the room and greet each student by name. “Good morning, Johnny. Nice to see you, Sally. Hi, Jeff.” This is an especially effective way to make personal, positive contact with those students who need your individual attention and caring words.

- **Spend a few special minutes with students who need your one-on-one attention.**

The most precious and valuable gift you can give difficult students is your undivided attention. Take a few minutes during class at recess, during lunch, or after school to talk with the students. Share information about yourself. Inquire about the student’s feelings and concerns. Let the students know that you are there to offer assistance, understanding, and a sympathetic ear when necessary.

- **Make a phone call after a difficult day.**

End a difficult day on a positive note by phoning a student with a positive message about tomorrow. Discuss any difficulties that occurred during the day. Get student input. Most important, your phone call should emphasize your confidence that these problems can be worked through and that tomorrow both of you can start fresh.

- **Make a positive phone call when a student has had a good day.**

What better way to let a student know that he or she is on the right track than by making a quick phone call to offer some well-earned words of praise. If the student isn’t home, share the good news with parents and have them deliver the positive message later.