

FIGURE 5.1

## 33 Ways to Build Better Relationships with Students

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1. Be who you needed when you were at school.
2. Connect before content.
3. Make regular deposits into the “social capital” bank.
4. Small ripples create big waves; do the simple things well.
5. Don’t worry about doing things 100 percent better; rather, do 100 things 1 percent better.
6. Know your children well and allow them to know you well.
7. Don’t be afraid of the “L word” . . . Love. Spread it thick.
8. Some children come to school to learn, others to be loved.
9. Every child (and adult) needs a champion.
10. Engagement has three forms: physical, emotional, and mental.
11. The language we use creates the reality we experience.
12. “Difficult child” or “child with difficulties”? “Troubled family” or a “family with troubles”?
13. Get involved earlier in the life of the child, earlier in the life of the problem.
14. Separate the deed from the doer.
15. Healthy relationships are built on high challenge and high support.
16. Punishment creates resentment rather than reflection.
17. There are always three truths: my truth, your truth, and the truth.
18. The best apology is changed behavior.
19. The “small stuff” is the big stuff.
20. Create a sense of belonging.
21. Catch them getting it right more than you catch them getting it wrong.
22. Magnify strengths rather than weaknesses, and focus on gifts rather than deficits.
23. The language we use to describe an experience often becomes the experience.
24. Difficult conversations—do they have to be? Remember, there is no easy way to poke people in the eye. However we do it, it’s going to sting a little.
25. Strike when the iron’s cold.
26. We learn to care by being cared for.
27. If you’re not modeling what you’re teaching, you’re teaching something different.
28. Listening is what you do to understand, not time spent simply waiting to reply.
29. Silence isn’t a gap in the conversation; it is part of the conversation.
30. Culture exists in every organization, but is yours by design or by default?
31. Everything looks better when you put it in a circle.
32. Smile at children; it’s good for you both.
33. There is always another way.