

Positive Teacher-Student Relationships

Importance

Having a positive relationship with your student is crucial for the implementation of interventions. When a student feels they are understood, respected, and supported by their teacher, they are more likely to engage in learning and respond to interventions. Additionally, understanding each student's strengths, challenges, and needs will allow for more personalized and successful interventions.

Evaluation

To evaluate your relationship with your student, consider the following:

- Does the student respect you? Consider their behavior, how they follow classroom rules, and their language toward you.
- Does the student seek your guidance?
- Do you treat the student fairly compared to classmates?
- Does the student speak to you about their hobbies and interests?
- Do you provide frequent encouragement and praise to the student?

It is often difficult to evaluate your own relationship with students, especially those who you may have concerns about. It may be helpful to have another staff member observe your class or evaluate you on the questions above. An unbiased observer can help you see areas for improvement. The person you are consulting may want to utilize the *behavioral consultation page*.

Tips for Improving Teacher-Student Relationships

- **Show genuine interest:** Learn about your student's interests and hobbies beyond academics and increase two-way communication by encouraging the student to provide feedback and input.
- **Be approachable and non-judgmental:** This helps the student know they can trust you with their concerns.
- **Listen and validate their feelings.**
- **Increase student involvement:** Involve the student in decision-making opportunities such as class rules and activities to promote a sense of responsibility and connection.
- **Make positive phone calls home.**
- **Greet and provide praise often:** Interventions such as Praise and Greetings are good interventions to start with if you would like to work on improving your relationship with the student.
- **Reflect:** Regularly take time to reflect on your interactions with the student and identify areas for improvement.

Example	Examples of Positive Teacher-Student Relationship	Non Examples
Show genuine interest	Mr. Moor regularly checks in with a student who recently joined the soccer team, asking how practice and games are going. Their relationship has quickly improved as Mr. Moor shows interest in the student's life beyond academics.	Mrs. Blake knows that her student recently joined the cheer team but never asks her about it, even though she is a former cheerleader. This is a missed opportunity to form a connection about a shared interest.
Greet and provide praise often	Logan raises his hand when he has something to say, follows directions, and often tells her peers things like "Shh! Mrs. White is trying to speak!" Logan has struggled with respecting teachers in other classes but has an exceptional relationship with Mrs. White. Mrs. White makes it a priority to praise Logan when he is on task.	Liam interrupts Mr. Thompson while he teaches, rolls his eyes when given directions, and generally shows a lack of respect in his classroom. Additionally, Mr. Thompson never praises Liam or provides any positive feedback. This is the only class that Liam presents disrespect to adults.
Be approachable and non-judgmental	Joey has recently started a Check In Check Out intervention and choose a previous teacher, Mr. Albertson, to be his check in teacher. He often says that he looks forward to sharing his day with Mr. Albertson because he cares about him.	Jenny is starting a Check In Check Out intervention and voiced that she doesn't want her current teacher, Mr. Bowman to be her check in person. She states that Mr. Bowman is mean and will get her in trouble if she has a bad day.