

Read It Once Again®

Building Positive Relationships in the Classroom

It is very important that children not only feel safe at school, but feel cared for by their teachers. Building meaningful relationships should begin the first day of school. When a positive relationship has been established, a child is more likely to want to please and follow directions. In effect, this means less behavior issues in your classroom. Both children and teachers benefit from positive relationships.

Tips in building positive relationships:

- Greet each child in the morning by name.
- Make eye contact when talking.
- Incorporate humor throughout the day. Children love to laugh and learn!
- Provide specific praise (for example, "You are doing a great job cleaning up all those blocks!"). Stay away from generic terms such as "Good job".
- Model positive relationships with other teachers, therapists, and parents.
- Notice and comment on details (for example "I see someone got a haircut! It looks great!").
- Have meaningful conversations with children. Use student interests to your advantage. Find out what their interests are, and find creative ways to incorporate this information into your lesson plans.
- Provide structure. Set the tone by establishing clear expectations and practicing classroom procedures.
- Remember, the children who may have the hardest time building positive relationships **NEED YOUR HELP THE MOST!** Go the extra mile. Recognize and assist in meeting student needs inside and outside the classroom when possible.

Take a few minutes to check out our [Preschool Classroom Management Guide](https://www.readitonceagain.com). Learn how we can help you create an effective teaching environment.