

Building Relationships The Student



Coach Lou Holtz said, "Ability is what you are capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it."

Developing a bond with students is the foundation for the trust and commitment needed to work together effectively. Personal relationships with caring adults are powerful motivators.

- Engage students in conversations about themselves, their friends, their families and interests.
- Convey genuine interest and respect through your tone and by listening and remembering.

- Use restful and encouraging language that communicates kindness and understanding.

Nudge students toward independence by using some of these prompts:

- Try to do a few examples by yourself and I will come back in a few minutes to see how you are doing.
- What is the next thing you have to do?
- I know you can do this part; I will help you get started.
- Tell me how you are going to do this task.
- Let's talk about ways to complete this project.

Recording Student Behavior

Many times teachers ask that you observe and record student behavior as you travel together throughout the school day. It is important to have a common language when communicating with school staff about student behavior observations.

Because you spend so much time with students each day, you are an important resource. You can often provide information about behavior in various settings that will help teachers and counselors be more effective. It is critical that your observations become part of the process of modifying student education plans.

The following notations are a step in the right direction. They serve as a shorthand method for quickly recording observations of student behavior with clarity and detail.

OTM – off task motor behavior such as drumming fingers on the desk, getting out of seat, squiggling and so on.

OTV – off task verbal behavior such as talking during a lesson or presentation, speaking off topic in a group discussion, making unrelated comments or asking unrelated questions during a class activity.

OTP – off task passive behavior such as putting one’s head on the desk, daydreaming, staring out the window, appearing unengaged.

OAP – aggressive physical behavior such as touching other students and slamming books or materials.

AV – aggressive verbal behavior such as threatening or bullying.

Strategies for Students Success



The remainder of this book is devoted to basic study skills that every student needs to develop in order to be successful in school. Many of the skills are also important life skills.

This section is written in direct address to the student, so that you can use it as a handbook of study skills and strategies.

These are valuable tools – strategies for encouraging the development of independence. Remind students to use them and model the strategies whenever you can. One day, your students will thank you for it!