

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUR STUDENTS!

KNOW YOUR KIDS

The most important aspect of your position as a teacher is your relationship with the children. As you become familiar with the children in your class and build personal friendships with each one you will notice other benefits stem from bonding with your students... ~~greater classroom control,~~ less disciplinary problems -(no need) -change discipline to discipleship, greater and deeper times of sharing and learning, MORE LOVE- (John 13:34-35).

You can impress people at a distance, you can only Impact them up close. H.H.

Helpful suggestions as to how you can build deeper, closer relationships with your children...

1.) **PRAY** for your children during the week! Make it a point to remember your children **by name** and pray for something specific concerning each individual child in your class. Keep a Prayer Journal or notecards, update them each week - show the kids where God answers - Yes, No, and Wait. You'll get to know the kids *Spiritually!* You'll soon come to know when your kids are struggling with their walk... **PRAY FOR THEM!** Are they having trouble at home or school? Are both his parents believers? However the Spirit leads be in prayer for these young believers that God has entrusted to your care.

2.) **LEARN THEIR NAMES!** You cannot teach what you don't know! Make it a point to learn their names quickly, within the first couple of weeks. This will help you to know them so well, that "You don't seem yourself today... anything wrong?" would be a welcome question from you. It is impossible to meet their needs unless you know them.

- Engage them in conversation, using their names. *
- Interview them. They need to know each other.
- Take a copy of the sign-in sheet home with you and go over it.
- Take an occasional field trip.

3.) **LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT EACH CHILD.** Listen to what they talk to you about or share with you. Get them talking. **SAY ANYTHING!*** The sooner you get them talking the better. Their issues, their agenda, not just yours. Ask them about it next time you see them. The sooner they share their issues with you, the sooner you become their TEACHER! For "Teacher" to remember their issues from last week last week confirms your love for them.

3b) **BIGGER PICTURE.** "The Marbles" Story. Implies the need to "Earn the Hearing", or the "opportunity to be heard." "Pokemon Story." My message to them was, "Your thoughts/ Joys/Hobbies are *IRREVERENT!* (Spiritual Cooties!) I belittled them, and as a consequence- My relevance - My Opinions - Anything I could possibly consider imparting to them became Obsolete/Irrelevant.

They rejected what I was teaching, because they rejected ME! Q: Who do you THINK you are?... **If someone told me** that I was unimportant to them, that any of my Joys, interests, accomplishments or beliefs were utter nonsense - then I would discount ANYTHING THEY HAD TO SAY! If the students have strong negative feelings toward the teacher, then he/she will never learn! The “Teacher” because of rudeness/inattention has been disqualified. So has the learner. **EARN THE RIGHT TO BE THEIR TEACHER!** To be their teacher you must generate their confidence in YOU!

“The thing Walt knew is that he, ‘Knew that which he would teach.’” Howard Hendricks

-Knowing your bible and study materials is secondary to this, because if you don’t “Win a hearing” then you can say anything at all, or even become a clanging cymbal! They won’t hear.

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:1-2

4.) SHARE SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF WITH THEM! To know your students is to flow into their lives. Let the children know what’s going on in your life. You got a new job, you’ve been feeling a little sick, you’re going to the beach next Monday. Just share your life with them. During prayer requests share your spiritual life! Teaching is a two-way street. Let them know who you are. Become vulnerable. Let them know your struggles too. -Befriend them!

They don’t care what you know till they know that you care!

5.) LOVE THEM! Show them affection! With the younger ones get down on the floor during free time and play with them. Older? Sit at their desk to teach them. Let them hug you and crawl in your lap during worship. Every child has longing to be close to the teacher, so make yourself accessible to them. The older kids become more inhibited with open displays of affection, So your sincere and personal attention is all you can give them. Talk with them! Convince them, “I Love You - And I’m honored to be your teacher!”

6.) PERSONALIZE YOUR MINISTRY! Go the extra mile and step outside the classroom. Find out the kids’ birthdays and send cards or call. If a child misses class, send a “missed you” note or make a call. Randomly call a couple of students each week just to say hi, or remind them of some neat thing they said in class and pray together.

There is a high price to good teaching, and it’s not available at a Bargain Basement Sale! You’ve got to be willing to pour your life out like a drink offering. H. Hendricks