

# Rapport Building Strategies

Connect first, then correct

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## Why Rapport Matters

Students perform better for adults they trust and feel connected to. Before you can effectively address behavior, you need a foundation of positive relationship. Research shows the teacher-student relationship is a key predictor of outcomes.

## Daily Connection Strategies

### Greet by Name

- Stand at door, make eye contact
- Use student's preferred name
- Offer appropriate greeting (handshake, wave, etc.)
- Brief positive comment when possible

### 2x10 Strategy

- Spend 2 minutes for 10 consecutive days
- Talk about non-academic topics
- Show genuine interest in student's life
- No behavior discussion during this time

### Notice and Acknowledge

- Comment on new haircut, shirt, etc.
- Remember and ask about their interests
- Notice when they're struggling
- Acknowledge effort, not just outcomes

## Interest Inventory

Learn about your students:

Favorite activity: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite music/shows: \_\_\_\_\_

Family/pets: \_\_\_\_\_

Goals/dreams: \_\_\_\_\_

What helps when upset: \_\_\_\_\_

## Repair After Conflict

When behavior incidents strain the relationship:

1. Allow cool-down time (for both of you)
2. Approach privately, calmly
3. Express care for the student
4. Briefly address the behavior
5. Restore relationship - fresh start
6. Follow up with positive interaction later

## 4:1 Ratio

### Pro Tip

Aim for 4 positive interactions for every 1 corrective interaction. Track yourself for a day - most adults are surprised how corrective they are.

## Rapport Self-Check

- I know something personal about this student
- I've had positive conversations (not just redirection)
- The student would say I care about them
- I genuinely look forward to seeing this student
- I've repaired our relationship after conflicts

## Track Positive Interactions

Classroom Pulse helps you monitor your positive-to-corrective ratio and relationship building.

[classroompulse.io/signup](https://classroompulse.io/signup)