## Relationship tracking form

List your students and their interests/background/strengths. For each student, identify the stage in your relationship:

1. When first meeting a student, note steps you take to **establish** a positive relationship.
2. Throughout the school year, identify activities—such as 1-on-1 check-ins—you use to **maintain** the relationship.
3. If a relationship is damaged, consider ways to **restore** it by addressing the harm in a positive manner.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student name</th>
<th>Notes (interests, background, strengths)</th>
<th>Establish</th>
<th>Maintain</th>
<th>Restore</th>
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Adapted from materials developed by Positive Environments, Network of Trainers; California Dept. of Education.
Tips to Build Positive Student-Teacher Relationships

Effective classroom management can often be more about building relationships than discipline. When students feel a greater sense of belonging, they’re more likely to be academically engaged and demonstrate positive behavior.

1. **Bank time early on**
   Making deposits into the relationship helps ease conflict in the future if you have to give constructive feedback or address disruptive behavior.

2. **Encourage student-led activities**
   Students feel more invested in their learning if given opportunities to share their interests.

3. **Welcome students into the classroom**
   Activities such as positive greetings at the door and icebreakers help create a warm classroom culture.

4. **Use positive communication techniques**
   Listening, validating, showing interest, and giving compliments help students—especially introverted ones—join discussions.

5. **Note positive and negative interactions**
   Aim for a 5-to-1 ratio with students.

6. **Regularly check in with students**
   Ask how they’re doing and what support they may need.

7. **Acknowledge good behavior**
   When teachers focus attention on positive conduct, disruptive behavior is stemmed before it becomes an issue.

8. **Let go and start fresh**
   Don’t hold mistakes over a student’s head. Every day, give them a chance to start with a clean slate.

9. **Take responsibility for your actions**
   Avoid blaming students when things go wrong. Don’t be afraid to apologize—it’ll help build trust with your students.

10. **Show empathy**
    There are two sides to every story—acknowledge that students may have a different perspective about what happened.

11. **Focus on solutions, not problems**
    Work with your students to find a solution that everyone feels is fair.

12. **Separate the deed from the doer**
    Criticize the behavior, not the person.

Learn more at “[The Key to Effective Classroom Management](#)”