

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.

Student name	Notes (interests, background, strengths)	Establish	Maintain	Restore

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”](#)