

Building Relationships in the classroom



Cheryl Cameron
Kindergarten teacher



It's a choice you make each day,
so choose to be happy—that's the way!



What is your definition of a relationship?

2 min...chat box

The definition of ‘relationship’:

- *the way in which two or more people are connected
- the way in which two or more people talk to, behave toward and deal with each other
- mutual dealings, connections or feelings that exist between people

“No road is long with good company” - Turkish proverb

“Whenever you’re in conflict with someone, there is one factor that can make the difference between damaging your relationship and deepening it. That factor is attitude.” - William James

What makes a healthy relationship?

“Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind: the second is to be kind; and the third is to be kind” - Henry James

Important qualities for all relationships:

*be kind

*be empathetic

*be honest

*be open-minded and non-judgemental

We are the 1st form of relationship seen outside the home - this needs to be remembered and taken seriously!

We model relationships to the students
- children are perceptive



Relationships with the adults in the classroom - RECE, SSP, Librarian, Planning Teachers

Many different people and personalities enter our classrooms every day. Our job is to collaborate and mentor positive relationships to the students in our rooms.

We start the year by sitting down with everyone involved in our room and discuss our goals and expectations. It is important to have everyone on the same page. Positive reinforcement as well as discipline strategies are discussed so they are consistent.

We then discuss programming and expectations

Our partnership...



We always need a little humour!



Our partnership has been developing and growing for 7 years. We are different individuals with different personalities. We look for our strengths and build on them. We are open, honest, professional and vulnerable. When one needs to take a step back the other moves forward...THAT is a team! And a TEAM takes work!



Questions? Tips for resolving conflict (in all relationships there is conflict)?

“The deepest language of all, is the language of relationships. It goes much deeper than the more easily measured skills like logical thinking and problem solving. Learning is about making relationships and this is the language that enables us to absorb information and process it at a deep level”.

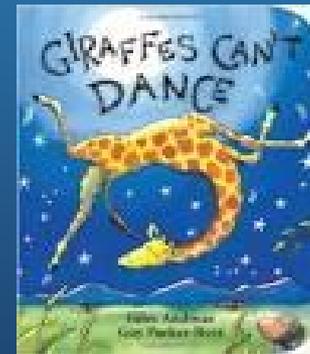
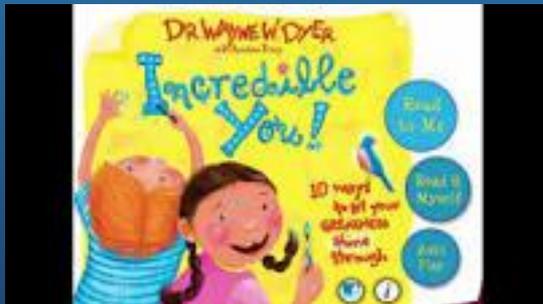
(Susan Fraser, 2011)

Building relationships with students ...

Just as we look for strengths in ourselves and each other we start strength based learning with our students in September.

We start by celebrating differences and building our class out of all of our strengths.

Two stories we share are:



Incredible You by Dr. Wayne Dyer allows us to discuss choices and things that make us different and special

*This allows us to brainstorm our friendship strengths and build a personalized board

Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae discusses what we may not be able to do yet and leads into goal setting and things we want to learn how to do.

*Again it is important to be vulnerable and admit we cannot do something - even the adults!

We encourage daily working together!



What we're learning is that social interaction – the building of the brain through relationships – is an absolutely crucial, essential part of healthy development. Relationships are nutrients for the brain.

(Clinton, 2013b, video transcript, opening statement)

Frame: Belonging and Contributing

*How Students form relationships and see themselves as contributing to society

This is an extremely important foundation of the kindergarten program

LISTEN!!!

- Take time to slow down and listen to the students
- Take time to care about the students
- Take time to play with the students

This builds relationships and trust.

Not all student relationships are formed the same way...

Some take longer

Some don't occur but that is the bonus of two people in the room!

*What important ways do you
build student relationships?*

Building relationships with parents...



The quote on our
classroom wall states 'It
takes a village to raise a
child'

We are reminded of this every day



Our wall is filled with our student's family photos. Our family photos and our class photo.

This is our class family.

Collaborate with parents to make thinking and learning visible

- Parents have much insight into their child's learning
- Share documentation to gain perspective

Relationships are built in our initial parent meetings, face to face morning/end of day greetings, phone calls and invites into the classroom.

*We have even done parent/student yoga for well being!

We have used a class blog and remind app to stay connected with the parents and are beginning to use D2L for documentation and parent communication.

At the end of the year we create Memory binders for the children (our 2nd yrs will receive plastic sleeves to add to their initial binders). This keeps our learning connected from school to home.

What ways do you include parents in learning and form relationships?



WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER.

**BY OURSELVES WE
CANNOT LIFT HEAVY
WEIGHTS OR SOLVE
COMPLEX PROBLEMS,
BUT TOGETHER WE
ARE REMARKABLE.**

SIMON SINEK

