



IDEAS to go...

Middle School Students Respond to Respect

Treat adolescents with respect. Long ago, people at their age were considered adults. Give adolescent students choices and a purpose for their efforts. Random, meaningless (to them) activities do not build the desire to learn. Be clear with the objectives and purpose of your lessons. Allow them opportunity to problem-solve.

When a student uses self-advocacy skills, listen. They know who they are and what they need to learn. If a student does not have self-advocacy skills, teach them. I find this skill is the greatest lifetime skill one can learn.

Terri Dimond, 4th Grade Teacher, Emerald Elementary, Broomfield, Colorado

Make Time to Build Relationships

Building relationships takes time. Make parent phone calls in the evening or during the weekend to ask for assistance with their children's behavior or academic concerns or to give praise. You can also give a parent or guardian a follow-up call when a student makes small steps in achieving his or her goals. What is small? When a potentially volatile child says "thank you" or shows some act of kindness, give praise in as many ways as you can. Your response will be memorable, and you may gain trust in building a relationship with both the student and parents.

Submitted by Sandra Smith-Jones, Virginia educator

Relationship Building

What classroom management ideas have worked for you?

E-mail them to NewsEditor@kdp.org.