

*Elementary
Edition!*



CHAMPS

Classroom Management

Tip of the Week

Building Relationships

As educators, the majority of our interactions with students are *contingent* upon their actions/behavior in the classroom. To build stronger relationships with students, consider increasing the amount of *non-contingent* attention that students receive- while still maintaining an appropriate amount of contingent feedback and praise. This is a fancy way to say, “Give time and attention to that student, regardless of how he/she behaves or performs academically” (Sprick, 2009).

In other words, show the child that you want to interact with him/her because you value them as a human *being*, not only as a human *doing*.

After distributing a student survey or conducting one-on-one interviews, consider keeping a class roster with details about each student. You can reference this information throughout the year to personalize instruction and “check-in” with each student.

Sample Questions

- What chores do you do at home?
- Tell me about your brothers and sisters.
- What’s your favorite _____? What is your least favorite _____?
- If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?
- If you could describe yourself in one word, what would it be?
- What do you like to do on the weekends?
- If you could have a superpower, which would you choose? Why?
- Who inspires you?
- What would you like me to know about you?

