**Positive Relationships**

**Why they matter:**

* Teachers with a more relational approach to discipline have less defiant behavior in their classrooms – which is explained by adolescent’s trust in authority (Gregory & Ripski, 2008)
* Teachers who show sensitivity, empathy and praise are most likely to establish strong relationships with students (Rey et al., 2007)
* Relationship building reduces problem behaviors

**Measures:**

* Delaware Assessment of Strengths and Needs
* School Climate Survey
  + Teacher-Student Relations
  + Student-Student Relations
  + Respect for Diversity
  + Teacher-Home Communications
  + Staff Relations

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**Classroom**

Find/ask about student interests and extracurricular activities

Have students provide 1-minute reports on areas of their interest (i.e. sports, drama)

Attend extracurricular events

Highlight student talents (i.e. bulletin board with newspaper articles)

Greet students as they enter the room

Shake hands at the end of the day

Show interest in their lives

Acknowledge birthdays, etc.

Learn more about students (e.g. via student interviews, journals, autobiographies)

Advocate for students

Positive principal’s visit

Suggestion box

Class meetings (e.g. Responsive Classroom)

Repeating compliments

Photos, news clippings

Humor: Practical jokes and fun activities

Personal notes, stickems, or letters

*In general: Increase individual attention and time!*

**School-wide**

Nominate a teacher for a reward

Community and service learning activities

Students earn the chance for staff to do silly things

Staff and student team challenges, including:  
 - Fundraisers  
 - Hallway decorating  
 - Sporting event attendance

**Teacher-Student** Relationship Building Strategies

**Classroom**

Getting to know each other activities

In class challenges – common goal for all

Group-based projects

Cooperative games

**School-wide**

Across grade level peer mentoring

Students on the PBS Team/PBS Student Team

Bullying prevention techniques, including:  
 - Hotline  
 - Lesson plans provided school-wide  
 - Pledges to prevent bullying  
 - “Sweet Tweet” board  
 - Cyber bullying lesson

Service learning opportunities

Students nominate each other for rewards

Special Olympics (athletes and peer partners)

Friendly competitions amongst grade levels

“Catch each other being good” incentives

Classroom contingencies

Challenge Day opportunities

**Student-Student** Relationship Building Strategies

**Classroom**

Encourage classroom visits

Welcome parents as volunteers

Inform about class activities: homework – agenda book sharing

Inform for each long-term project, including scoring rubric

Inform parents about extracurricular activities – spelling bees, award assemblies, plays, etc.

Phone calls regarding positive student behavior and progress

Inviting parents on field trips

Asking parents to share hobbies/interests

Provide a calendar

Newsletters

Websites: School, classroom

Progress reports

Thank you notes/letters

Email, class website

Letters about behavior on field trips, etc.

**School-wide**

Positive messages home

Positive parent conferences

Positive behavioral referral

PBS newsletters highlighting positive behaviors, improvements in referrals

Inviting parents to be part of PBS events

PBS information shared at open house

Parents on SWPBS Team

Two-way communication with parents

Having parents nominate teachers for awards

**Home-School** Relationship Building Strategies