

3 Quick Tricks for Creating a Positive Environment

Our Purpose

These tools help us reach our goals of creating a safe and supportive environment and help students feel respected by others, cared about, and more connected to school and after school.

Greeting Students at the Door

Why?

Students feel welcome and acknowledged

Helps to stop behavior that may cause other issues in afterschool (i.e. name-calling or hitting, in the hallway or a student arriving in a bad mood)

How?

1. Stand at or around the door
2. Positively interact with students as they come into the class
3. Remind students to look at the class schedule and to begin practiced classroom routines (do now, signing up for activities, etc.)

Quick Tips

- Provide pre-corrective statements to individual student or entire class
- Practice entering class routines first
- Stand sideways at the door to still keep a view inside

5 to 1 Ratio of Positive to Corrective Statements

Why?

Negative and corrective interactions carry a lot of weight for students who have not traditionally been successful in school and acknowledging small things students do makes corrective feedback the exception and not the norm

How?

1. Think of different ways you can positively acknowledge students (high-fives, tickets, verbal acknowledgement, stickers, etc.)
2. Recognize when students are meeting expectations and deliver acknowledgement.
3. Monitor the 5 to 1 ratio occasionally to ensure the positive environment is maintained

Quick Tips

- The 5 to 1 ratio does not mean 5 positive comments for each student. General comments such as, "thank you for taking your sets quickly," count as positives for the whole group!
- Increase positivity and retention of staff by recognizing staff who meet the 5 to 1 ratio.

Smiling and Being Nice

Why?

Using your facial expressions, body language, and tone of voice to welcome students can have a great impact for students in general, but especially with students who have not had safe or positive interactions with adults. This lets them know before you even speak that you are friendly, safe, and approaching them with positive intentions.

How?

1. Find your smile! Some have a difficult time feeling when they are smiling or frowning or using other closed body language. Test your skills in the mirror!
2. Find other explicit ways to show your smile if you do not want to smile constantly (high-fives, handshakes, hugs, secret signals, etc.)

Quick Tips

- Create a routine to bring out your smile even when you are not feeling very chipper such as a funny joke, phrase, picture, memory, or make a funny face.