

CONNECT FOR SUCCESS!

Connect for Success has 3 broad goals to support teachers and their students.

GOAL 1: CONNECT

A healthy student-teacher bond impacts student achievement. Healthy connection helps students feel safe at school, so that students feel free to explore and learn. Meeting this goal sounds simple, but it is not always easy!

How to do it:

- Smile at your students. Make a point of being glad to see them.
- Before the learning starts, do a group "temperature check" to hear about how they are doing.
- And at the end of class, put on those "praise goggles" to tell students what they did well that day, even (or especially!) on challenging days.
- Seek out and praise kindness among your students. Make it a goal to find one or two acts of kindness in your classroom every day.
- When students express frustration, ask, "What can I do to help you?" in order to convey your care and concern.
- Showing your sense of humor in the classroom makes a huge difference!

GOAL 2: BALANCE

Help students develop ability to balance self-control with self-expression in order to manage emotions appropriately and in context.

How to do it:

- Model stress management – if you feel overwhelmed and need a cool down, show your students your healthy approach.
- Seek to understand how student school behaviors are connected to other life events the student is experiencing. Avoid taking behavior problems personally.
- Ask yourself, "Am I responding in a way that is best for this student?" *How* you say things is just as important as *what* you say.
- Build predictable routines into your classroom, but allow the routines to be flexible when needed, such as when a student experiences a crisis.
- Check your assumptions– observe and question with empathy.

GOAL 3: COMPETENCY

Help students cultivate competencies of Personal Agency, Social Skills, and Academics, which are important for healthy development and learning.

How to do it:

- Make learning content relevant to students' lives. Help students connect classroom achievements to future goals.
- Make learning a multi-sensory experience. Create hands-on activities.
- Emphasize personal responsibility in decision-making. To the extent that you can use flexibility in your daily lesson plans, you can ask students to help set an "agenda" for the day, with a range of choices set by you!
- Ask your students for feedback whenever possible. It makes students feel valued and included when their opinions are sought.



Connect



Balance



Competency



Success

WE ARE HERE
TO SUPPORT
YOU!

If you have questions or would like feedback about using Connect for Success in your classroom, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at Vida Clinic at:

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