

MONTHLY TIP

SEPTEMBER



BEHAVIOR SERVICES

Welcome Back!

Take some time at the beginning of this year to getting to know your students. By strengthening your relationship with your students, they may be more likely to attend class, pay attention, and complete work. Listed below are some activities for all grade levels.

1. Say Hello!

- Greet each student when they enter your room - let them know you notice them and you're glad they're here!
- Say hi to them when you pass them in the hall! You never know when a simple hello can brighten someone's day.

2. Have a Conversation

- Tell the students about yourself, your family, your hobbies, etc. Ask them questions about themselves and show interest in what they say. Take notes on what they say to you can bring it up later when talking to them.
- Conversations can be done with a whole class or small group. Questions can be written on the board or just happen naturally.
- By finding out what they like (and don't like), you may be able to schedule preferred activities after non-preferred activities to increase motivation.

3. Get to know You Activities

- Yarn Ball** - Sit in a circle with students on the floor. Hold a large ball of yarn and tell the students something about yourself. Then hold onto the end of the yarn and roll the ball to a student. The student who gets the ball of yarn tells his/her name and something good about himself/herself. Then the student holds onto a piece of yarn and rolls the ball somebody else. Soon you will have created a giant web. After everyone has spoken, everyone keeps hold of the yarn and stands up. Talk about how this activity relates to the idea of teamwork -- for example, the students need to work together and not let others down. Then, have one student drop his or her strand of yarn which demonstrates how the web weakens if the class isn't working together.

http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/icebreakers_for_kids_2.shtml

- Bingo** - Have a bingo card full of various characteristics such as 'has a pet'; 'has traveled to a different country'; 'middle name starts with m'. This will get students to walk around the room and talk to their peers. Once the bingo card is filled up with names, prizes can be awarded. <https://www.teachervision.com/teaching-strategies/getting-know-your-students>

- This or That** - Give students a choice between two things they prefer and have them go to one side of the room, depending on their choice. It can help build student confidence and form friendships through shared interests.

<https://www.cultofpedagogy.com/classroom-icebreakers/>

4. Build Rapport with Parents

- Do you ever have to send an email or make a phone call to talk about a student's problem behavior? Let's switch that around - call, email or mail a quick note letting parents know how well their child is doing! Who wouldn't appreciate that!?

For more information:



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www.swsc.org/behavior

Upcoming Events Behavior Conference- West River

Friday, Oct. 20, 2017
Rapid City, SD

~Registration NOW OPEN~

Behavior Conference

Monday, April 9, 2018
Marshall, MN

or

Tuesday, April 10, 2018
Brookings, SD

~Registration Coming Soon~



Melissa Andree



Hazel Ashbeck



Sara Athman



Jason Dybsetter



Trista Linn



Marissa Stordahl



Kari Tschida