

1 A strong, positive community provides a safe, predictable, joyful, and inclusive classroom and school environment where all students have a sense of belonging and significance.

Teachers create a positive community when they:

- Create the conditions for students to belong and be significant
- Interact with students in a respectful manner
- Approach discipline in a primarily proactive way
- Respond to misbehavior in ways that preserve the dignity of individual students and the class
- Provide opportunities to succeed that are equitable, fair, and just

2 Responsive Classroom practices build a sense of belonging, significance, and positive connection for students and educators.

- [Morning Meeting](#)
- [Responsive Advisory Meeting](#)
- [Positive teacher language](#)
- [Establishing and investing in the rules](#)
- [Energizers and brain breaks](#)
- [Interactive learning structures](#)



3 Start with the adult community.

- **All adults in the school community are stakeholders.** The support of the entire adult community is essential for meaningful change.
- **Assume good intentions.** Check-in with adults who seem upset, frustrated, or angry. Ask, “How are you today?” or “What’s going on?”
- **Show empathy through acknowledgment.** If a colleague or parent is complaining, use a supportive statement that shows you are listening instead of joining in. “That sounds really difficult. I’m sorry you’re dealing with that.”

Resources

- [Strong Communities Build Strong Schools](#)
- [Parent Outreach for Busy Leaders](#)
- [Empowering Adults to Support Each Other](#)
- [Adults Making a Difference by Working Together](#)

