

It's About Relationships  
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Many times I have heard parents discussing their children's grades. One common denominator in their discussion always entails how their children were making A's in a subject and then suddenly the child's grades drops. Many parents don't understand what is going on. They will ask themselves, how can this be happening to my child? What is the child doing wrong? I've spent good money, they have had tutoring. I just don't understand this. Frantically they move towards the telephone and schedule a call with the child's teacher. Can I submit to you before you talk to the teacher, the answer that you are looking for lies within your child? Most of the time when children are doing very well in school in a given subject and suddenly, neither school nor their progress is working; it is because there is not a relationship or a teacher child connection. Many children have responded when confronted about their failing grades or a lack of progress in general to the effect of the teacher doesn't care about me or she doesn't like me.

Children will associate their contribution as sign of affection. Whether it is doing homework, following the rules, being nice to friends, lying down at nap time, this is their contribution. So children might say, hey Ms. Teacher I am being good now what are you doing for me? Children need to know that we do generally care about them. The Center on Social and Emotional Foundation for Early Learning suggest that building positive teacher-child relationship are a must to be successful in the early childhood setting. To build positive relationships with children CSEFL suggest the following guidelines:

- Engage in one-to-one, face-to-face interactions
- Get on the child's level for face-face interaction
- Use a pleasant, calm voices and simple language while making eye contact
- Provide warm, responsive physical contact
- Follow the child's lead and interest during play
- Help children understand classroom expectations
- Acknowledge children for their accomplishments and effort

***Rules without relationship equal rebellion!***

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