



Brittany Holland

William R. Davie Elementary School
Mocksville, North Carolina



Building relationships is *the* best practice for an administrator. Building solid relationships encompasses all of the top "traditional" best practices on any list. This includes, but is not limited to, visibility and communication.

Being visible and approachable are things that have helped me to build the solid relationships that I have with my staff, students, and the community. I am in the hallway every morning to greet my students by their name as they walk in the building. It is important to me that I know all of my students by name, and that I know at least one "fun fact" about them. This helps me to be known by students as someone that wants to get to know them and not just discipline them. Parents are also in the building in the mornings walking their children to class and this is a great time for me to get to know them. Having a relationship with parents is helpful when I must have critical conversations, I never want my first contact with a parent to be negative. Teachers and other staff are also in the hallways first thing in the morning, this is a great time to meet with them and handle anything that could make their day run more smoothly. I also love to be in classrooms. Not only does that give me a chance to get out of my office, it helps to get to know my students and teachers even better. I like to help my students with assignments or centers and by doing this I am making connections with them. It also gives me an opportunity to model relationship building for teachers.

Communication is an asset to building relationships. I pride myself in being someone teachers and students feel comfortable approaching and communicating with.