## PUTTING TEACHER WARMTH AND AVAILABILITY TO SUPPORT LEARNING INTO PRACTICE

An important first step is to reflect on your own experience.

1. How do you build rapport when you meet a new person?

2. How do members of your family build rapport?

3. How did your parents teach you to show feelings?

Then consider which students might need help in establishing positive relationships with you. Try one or more of the activities below and share your results.

4. Try a quick daily check-in at the beginning or end of each day. One easy way to start is to greet each student as the students enter the classroom at the start of the day. Focus your observation on two students who might benefit the most from this closeness, and document any changes in their behavior. What did you observe?

• Ask about their plans for the day or how the day went, what help they might need, or any concerns they might have about how things are going for them in the classroom. This will provide deeper opportunities to learn about your students' experiences in the classroom and permit them to hear your ideas. These check-ins also promote reflective thinking on the part of students and can help them think about their own behavior and its effect on classroom life. What did you discover?

5. Try instituting a get-to-know-you activity in which each student is the focus for a week. Have the student bring in pictures, artifacts, family members, instruments—anything that reflects who the student is and what the student cares about. You could begin the process by being the first to "present" yourself so that students see you as a person and possibly see similarities between you and them. What did you try? What did you learn from this activity?

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