BUILDING TRUST AND CONNECTION BEFORE WE BEGIN TEACHING

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One of the most important parts of your lesson is on how you begin and introduce your lesson. Students must learn to trust you. Begin your lesson in a warm, and interesting way. Ask a few questions to help you understand what your students are going through. They may be having difficulty in other subject areas or having problems at home. For example, ask, “How’s your morning class?” or ask them if they enjoyed their class activity last week. However, do not ask questions that would make your students feel uncomfortable sharing their answers with.

Before starting the lesson, ask everyone to pay attention and remove all unnecessary things that they have. Encourage them to take down notes and focus so that learning will not be hindered.

Explain that you would like to start the lesson with students who are prepared to learn. Begin with statements that encourages them to listen more and not with words that may discourage them. For example, avoid saying that your lesson today will be difficult to understand so they better listen. Statements like that sends a message to our students that the lesson to be discussed is impossible for them to comprehend.

As teachers, we should demonstrate true interest and care for our students and hope that they will learn. As the situation allows, we may express thoughts like the following to our students:
• This lesson will enable you to find answers to your life’s problems.

• Don’t worry if there are things that you do not understand yet. I will be ready to explain it to you.

• Don’t hesitate to ask questions. I will be your guide in the learning process.

• There will be some task that I will require you to work on after the discussion. I’m pretty sure that you can do it!

Before going through the lesson, consider giving a simple background of what you are going to teach. Our task, as teachers, is to help our students see that lessons have a personal relevance to them. If they do, it will be easier for us to make them pay attention. As we try to make connections with our students, they will recognize us not just as their teacher but a friend whom they can trust.

References: