



Students Respond in Different Ways

By Cindy Alsip, former NEW Public School Representative and Guest Writer

One of the joys God gives a teacher is to recognize the sparks in students' eyes when they connect with a topic, leading to their growing interest to learn further. The diverse ways students respond show how their mind works. It is fascinating to see the infinitely diverse ways God has created each one of us in how we think!

Students' Reactions

- Some students are so quiet as they receive the information that you need to gently pull a response from them.
- Some students cannot wait to interact with you and will do anything to get your attention.
- Some students take a little longer to understand, but they recognize the kindness in your voice. They hang with you until they get it.
- Some students close their minds immediately. They need a little one-on-one with you before they will let you see who they are.

Teacher/Student Relationships

Time is so precious in a public school classroom. We are always fighting the clock for instructional time as we allow for field trips, announcements, fire drills, standardized testing, snow days, and other classroom interruptions. Remember, however, it can be just as important to re-connect with your students through exploring their questions for a while as it is to teach content.

Talk about something interesting to them and help them make connections wherever you can in that conversation. When managed in the right way, these types of interactions help both students and the teacher to re-focus and work in tune with each other when you move them back into the content of your lesson.

More importantly, it is another way to show Christian love and interest in the children in a public school classroom. Your students need to connect with you in the same way that we need to connect with our Heavenly Father—to remember He loves us, is with us, and is vitally interested in us. Your students want to know you care about them and are ready to help them, even though their responses to you may not show it.

“Do everything in love” (1 Corinthians 16:14, NIV).

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