

Teachers Can Make a Difference

A lot is written about teachers and their role in news dailies , the most common things we see and read is negative news about teachers and their behavior. I wanted to bring a change in this pattern because I firmly believe that teachers are nation builders. In this article I am highlighting how teachers can make a difference.

I have forgotten the lessons I learnt during my school days but I still remember my teachers. So much was their positive influence.

What is a teacher?

The question sounds different. I wanted to know what is in the mind of today's children about the role that the teachers should play. The answers were amazing. I have highlighted the answers, which were given by majority of the children.

Teacher is

- A guide
- A teacher
- A friend
- A motivator
- A confidence builder
- A skill builder
- A leader
- A role model

In short the role of the teacher is demanding but rewarding and enriching. Successful students can be produced by successful teachers.

How can we as teachers help students succeed? By

- Valuing Student Differences
- Encouraging Student Self-Motivation
- Treating students as the co-managers of the teaching/learning process
- Understanding the students' expectations
- Understanding one's own role

What Do Students Want, Expect?

- Self Determination – Empowerment (Ability to make choices about their courses etc.)?
- Knowledge – to learn? Do they know how to learn?
- Respect – to be treated like first-class, not second-class citizens – To grow as a person.
- Excellence in the classroom.

Why don't we ask them? Involve them?

We faculty exist because of them . . . the students!

Teachers are expected to . . .

- Be specific with directions
- Be a good listener
- Probe & question your student continuously
- Get feedback from students to ensure learning is happening
- Respect your student's point of view
- Accept and/or try to understand your student's feelings
- Keep your cool at all times . . . show no "negative" emotion
- Be patient
- Maintain confidentiality
- Be flexible! For learning to be successful it must be FUN!
- Not take anything for granted! Don't assume anything!

Request for champion teachers

I have few uncommon advices which will have long lasting positive effect in the minds of children.

- Listen patiently
- Build a relationship
- Do not abuse your authority
- Nurture self-sufficiency
- Share yourself
- Be constructive: Give positive feedback
- Don't be overbearing: Avoid dictating choices

Building Respect

To build respect among students the following points may help:

- Take students seriously
- Maintain an informal relationship outside the classroom
- Be frank and direct
- Help develop self-esteem
- Address fears without belittling
- Meet on “neutral ground”

Can a teacher really be a friend?

- “Advisor, Teacher, Role Model, Friend”.
- Power differential cannot be ignored.
- You can never be simply a friend.
- But, personal relationship is what makes a teacher effective; share your own experience. Try to cultivate an informal relationship outside the classroom.

Advisor, Teacher, Role Model, Be Dynamic

- Your role is not static, nor the same in all situations.
- Each student is different and has different needs.
- Needs will change with time.
- You need to vary degree and type of attention, help, advice, information and encouragement.

**If teachers & students care about
each other’s success . . .**

**We can make a difference in . . .
each other’s lives . . .**

We can if we will . . . We know how.

By: NTC Team

Note: Hope you liked the content, we value your feedback.

In case of any query or suggestion feel free to write on email: info@ntcindia.co.in