

Seven Things Students LOVE About Effective Teachers

1. Students love **teachers who are nice** to them. Students, at all grade levels, respond much more favorably to teachers who are nice to them than they do to those who are not. The old “Do unto others” rule applies to us all. But remember that students are not adults, and they don’t always treat others the way that they would like to be treated. That’s why they need positive adult role models in their lives! Being nice does not mean that you let students have their way and do anything they want. It simply means you deal with them, in good times and in bad, in a nice, calm, professional manner.
2. Students love teachers who **make learning fun**. Don’t we all? If learning is fun, it hardly feels like learning at all. Students should not feel worn out and frustrated when they leave our classrooms. They should feel invigorated, inspired, and successful. That’s why the most effective teachers create ways to make learning fun and exciting. This way, the students can’t wait to return tomorrow!
3. Students love teachers who **help them succeed**. The same concept applies to sports. Players love coaches who help them succeed. No one wants to feel unsuccessful, so students will often give up for fear of failing. This way, they feel “in control” of the failure. But in the classrooms of teachers who make learning something new appear doable and who guide students and who stop at nothing to help students understand when they struggle to understand, it’s rare to see a student giving up. At the risk of overstating the obvious, success really does breed success!
4. Students love teachers who **challenge them**. Yes, students welcome a good challenge, as long as they feel they can walk away from the challenge having accomplished something, having experienced some degree of success. They don’t want “easy” and they don’t want “impossible.” In between the two are activities that are challenging yet attainable. That’s where learning takes place.
5. Students love teachers who are **clear with expectations**—both for behavior and learning. They want to know what they can do and what they can’t—what we do expect and what we don’t—what we will and won’t allow. They don’t like surprises. They like to know where we stand so that they can better know where they stand.

6. Students love teachers who **don't hold yesterday's transgressions against them**. Quite simply, they want us to wipe the slate clean every day.
7. Students love teachers who can relate to them and their lives—teachers who **get to know them as people**. Get to know your students—who they are and aren't, what they like and dislike, what they dream about becoming. Help them to realize their dreams. That's what teachers do!