

Strategies for VERY difficult students

- 1. Find a quiet space inside/outside the classroom – comfortable safe**
- 2. Remain non-judgemental – be CURIOUS – seek first to understand**
- 3. Stay calm and friendly, firm and fair**
- 4. Engage in friendly conversation (how did last night/the game go?)**
- 5. Show them you care – show interest in progress**
- 6. Search for something to like in the student**
- 7. Acknowledge positive behaviours and strengths**
- 8. Keep things in perspective**
- 9. Talk with them about their interests (demonstrating interest)**
- 10. Allow processing/take-up time**
- 11. Teach whatever the social skill is that you want to see**
- 12. Speak quietly**
- 13. Be really clear about expectations**
- 14. Find out about their strengths, skills, dreams (know the learner)**
- 15. Use student interests when planning topics**
- 16. Model staying calm**
- 17. Ask open questions and reflect back to them what they might be feeling**
- 18. Connect before correcting**
- 19. Ask first, don't tell**
- 20. Be patient – wait for an answer before asking the next question**
- 21. Use non-verbals (hand gestures) first**
- 22. Get plenty of sleep!**
- 23. Acknowledge effort and progress**
- 24. Remind them of their strengths**
- 25. LISTEN first**
- 26. Get them involved in the problem-solving**
- 27. Remember names and pronounce them properly**
- 28. Seek to understand the behavior (motivation and intention)**
- 29. Follow-through on agreed consequences**
- 30. Explain the problem behavior**
- 31. Teach them how to plan, abstract processes, mental models**
- 32. Allow student to save face**
- 33. Keep your sense of humour and use it to defuse**
- 34. Seek to understand the resources available to the student/family**
- 35. Pick your battles**
- 36. Ask them how you might help them**
- 37. Teach the hidden rules of school**
- 38. Be Friendly, Reliable, Enthusiastic, Dedicated, Determined, Organised (FREDDO)**
- 39. We are going to have an adult conversation.....**
- 40. Do more of the above**