6 WAYS TO BUILD MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT

WITH CLIENTS

Show Appreciation

Show a genuine appreciation for the people you work with by noticing and expressing your gratitude.³

VIEW OUR NASW APPROVED CEU COURSES

Use Names Often & Correctly

Using a person's name respects their dignity and autonomy and enhances your ability to listen and engage with them.^{2,5}

Use Strengths-Based Language

Focus on highlighting a person's positive strengths by actively listening and framing conversations around what they do well.³

©2025 Great Kids[®] Inc.

1.800.906.5581

greatkidsinc.org

4 Recognize & Reflect on Pitfalls

Recognize pitfalls when they happen and reflect on the behavior(s) that led to them.¹

5 Engage in Cultural Humility

Allow people to define themselves and their culture. Know them for who they are rather than who you see them as.⁶

Repair Relationships

Support healthy and trusting relationships by making it a habit to recognize opportunities for repair.^{4,7}

References

- 1. Brown, B. (2021). Atlas of the heart: Mapping meaningful connection and the language of human experience. Random House.
- 2. Carmody, D. P., & Lewis, M. (2006). Brain activation when hearing one's own and others' names. *Brain Research*, 1116(1), 153-158. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.brainres.2006.07.121
- 3. HARC. (2021, November 8). Responsive partnership toolkit: Techniques for strengthening relationships with families. <u>https://hvresearch.org/resources/home-visitor-responsive-partnership-toolkit/</u>
- 4. Lewis, J. M. (2000). Repairing the bond in important relationships: A dynamic for personality maturation. *The American Journal of Psychiatry*, 157(9), 1375-1378. https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ajp.157.9.1375
- 5. Maiter, S., Palmer, S., & Manji, S. (2006). Strengthening social worker-client relationships in child protective services: Addressing power imbalances and 'ruptured' relationships. *Qualitative Social Work*, *5*(2), 161-186. <u>https://doi.org/10.1177/1473325006064255</u>
- 6.Yeager, K. A., & Bauer-Wu, S. (2013). Cultural humility: Essential foundation for clinical researchers. *Applied Nursing Research*, 26(4), 251-256. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apnr.2013.06.008
- 7. Zomorodi, M. (Host). (2023, October 6). Making things right: How we repair and strengthen our most important relationships [Audio podcast episode]. In *TED Radio Hour.* NPR. <u>https://www.npr.org/2023/10/06/1198908045/making-things-right-how-we-repair-and-strengthen-our-most-important-relationship</u>

©2025 Great Kids[®] Inc.

1.800.906.5581

greatkidsinc.org