



*New Perspective...New Growth*

## Connecting with the 'Tough to Reach' Student

- 1) **REFUSE TO ACCEPT APPEARANCES** - The trick is to see the child "as if" he were competent, capable, responsible and a pleasure to be with.
- 2) **REVERSE THE LABELS** - List the labels you have already accepted as the truth about this child and then make a new list of labels reflecting the exact opposite, i.e.; disruptive/peaceful, calm, quiet, happy. Affirm what you would like to see in the child.
- 3) **STOP ACCEPTING EXCUSES** - Accepting an excessive number of excuses demoralizes children and enables them to act "as if" they are incapable.
- 4) **"NO, YOU CANNOT!"** - It is truly the magical trick which teaches children that you love them enough to expect them to have boundaries (limits) and behave appropriately.
- 5) **ELIMINATE MANIPULATION** - The magic of understanding manipulation is to see it as a child's unskilled attempts to get their needs met. That's all. Stop making children wrong or bad for having challenges and needs.
- 6) **REFUSE TO REMAIN ENGAGED IN CONFLICT** - You can move out of conflict by asking, "What's going on for you?" as opposed to ignoring or suppressing anger and hurt feelings. It helps to remember that anger stems from one of three things: hurt, need and/or fear
- 7) **INSIST ON HIGH PERFORMANCE** - It is absolute magic to watch the wheels turn in a child's head when you refuse to accept anything less than his best.
- 8) **GET A NEW ATTITUDE** - Before you can change anyone else, you must first change yourself. Your attitude holds 50% (or more) of the weight in an interaction.
- 9) **TRASH THE WET BLANKET** - Children are wide open to adult suggestion, and criticism. Instead of limiting children, visualize something beyond what you originally thought possible for them and see what magic happens!
- 10) **I'M ON YOUR SIDE** - Find something right about everything. People teach us exactly what we need to know. They exhibit what we need to understand about what is not working, and what is.

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