

ACTIVITY:

Connections Assessment



- First, either list the names or place photographs of every child in your school, grade, or classroom on the walls of the school cafeteria or gymnasium.
- Then, invite all staff members (not only teachers) and consistent parent helpers to walk around the room and place a sticker or check mark next to every child's name or photograph with whom they feel they have a connection.
- Afterward, identify kids who are without connections or have little connections and assign a few staff members to each of these children. Encourage staff to make a point to say hello and greet these kids as often as they can during the school year. Almost every day is ideal. The goal is to make every child feel like an adult, or several adults, notice them and are excited to see them in class, in the hallway, or at school events. The kids with little or no adult connections are the ones who need connections most. The caring adults in your school are the perfect people to help increase the overall school connectedness that children experience.

This is a powerful and effective way to ensure every student in your building feels connected and like they belong.