

## **Introduction**

As a teacher, having good relationships with your students, parents and the community is important in the effective learning of your students. In this essay, three factors will be discussed that are of importance to developing these relationships. These factors are: the way interactions take place, the content of the interaction and the environment in which these interactions occur. For each of these factors activities are described which will lead to effective relations that will result in productive learning.

## **The way we interact**

The way we interact is related to the question of who holds power in the classroom. Although this varies from culture to culture and school to school, in the country where I live (the Netherlands) most of the power lies with the teacher. However, a great deal of attention is paid to diversify the teaching to meet the needs of individual students which makes the students have considerable power as well. This balancing of power between teachers and students depending on what is going on in the classroom fosters effective learning.

## **The content of the interaction**

The content of that is transferred in the interaction between teachers and students can be distinguished in two categories: the seriousness and the level of the content. With regard to the seriousness of the content a balance has to be found between serious, instructional content related to the teaching and more informal communication. A teacher should be able to communicate both types of content according to which is appropriate in the situation. The second categories relates to the level of content which is communicated.

## **The environment of the interaction**

The environment of the interaction relates to the physical space in which the interaction occurs. The major distinction that can be made here is that between interactions in the classroom and those outside of it. As a teacher, I sometimes encounter my students while shopping for groceries. The way I interact with them in these situations is as important to the interactions I have with them in my classroom. As a Scout leader (in which role I am an informal educator) I used to commute with one of the parents of 'my Scouts'. It is these interactions which allow you to lead by example and showing students that how you behave in the classroom is genuine and real.

## **Conclusion**

The way we interact with our students, the content of these interactions and the place where they take place are important in shaping our relations with our students. These relations are the base of our teaching and provide the platform from which we depart in our journey to develop our students and make them the best version of what they can be.