

## Starting with Strengths – Script for Educators

### Introduction

Focusing on student strengths and building relationships is a powerful way to create a positive, collaborative environment with both families and students at the start of the school year. Establishing trust and open communication from the very beginning lays the groundwork for a successful and supportive school experience for every student.

Below you will find two scripts focused on highlighting student strengths you've noticed in the last few weeks. The first script is for a conversation between a staff member and the student's family. The second script is for a conversation between a staff member and the student. Both conversations are intended to occur near the beginning of the school year.

### Starting with Strengths Script – A Conversation with a Family Member

Hi, I'm calling from [NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT/SCHOOL].

We are excited to welcome (name of student) to school this year, and I'd like to speak with you for a moment about (name of student) and share a strength I've noticed in the last week. Do you have a few minutes?

**IF YES,** consider asking one or two questions based in the following:

- **Share a positive interaction you've had with the student in the last two weeks**
- **Share a positive interaction between the student and their peers you have noticed**
- **Share what you've noticed the student was excited or passionate about**

**Then ask the family**

- **Connect to Their Story:** What is a favorite story about your student, so I can get to know them better?
- **Connect to Their Goals:** What are your goals for your student's education? How would you like to be involved and communicate with me/our school?
- **Connect to Their Contribution:** How does your student like to contribute? What brings them joy?

Thank you so much for sharing that with me! We want you to know that (name of student) matters, and we are here to support (name of student) every day. If (name of student) has trouble getting to school, please reach out to us to let us know how we can support them!

**IF NO, PLEASE READ:**

Okay, I completely understand. Welcome to [NAME OF SCHOOL]. We want you to know that (name of student) matters, and we are here to support (name of student) every day. If (name of student) or your family experience difficulties in attending school, please reach out to us to let us know how we can provide support. We are excited that your student is a part of our learning community, and we look forward to both partnering with you and getting to know them better this year.

## Starting with Strengths Script – A Conversation with a Student

Hi (Student's Name)! This is [Your Name] from [NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT/SCHOOL].

We're really excited to have you at school this year! I wanted to share something positive I've noticed about you recently. Do you have a few minutes to chat?

**IF YES**, consider sharing one or two of these noticings:

- **Share a positive interaction you've had with the student in the last two weeks**
- **Share a positive interaction between the student and their peers you have noticed**
- **Share what you've noticed the student was excited or passionate about**

Then, "Let's talk about": (modify number and types of questions based upon individual student)

- **Your Story:** What's a favorite story about yourself that you'd like me to know? **or**
  - Can you tell me about some time when you felt really proud of something you did?
- **Your Goals:** What are your goals for this school year? How would you like to stay in touch with me or your teachers?
- **Your Interests:** How do you like to get involved or contribute? What things make you happiest?
  - Is there something that you have been really excited or passionate about lately?
- **Your Connections:** Have you had any experiences with your classmates lately that you would like to share?

Thank you so much for sharing that with me! We want you to know that you're really important to us, and we're here to support you every day. If you ever have any trouble getting to school, just let us know how we can help!

**IF NO, PLEASE READ:**

That's okay! Welcome (welcome back) to [NAME OF SCHOOL]. We want you to know that you matter, and we are here to support you every day. If you experience difficulties in attending school, please reach out to us to let us know how we can provide support. We are excited that you are a part of our learning community, and we look forward to learning with you and supporting you this year.