



Transforming Classrooms

Building Emotional Resilience

Remember:

- These statements can be validating IF they accurately reflect what the person is feeling.
- Less is more!
- What you are addressing is the emotion NOT the situation.
- It's not about you.

Examples of Validating Statements for STUDENTS ...to help you get started

I can understand why you are so frustrated...*[then articulate what the frustration is]* ...given that you studied so hard.

So frustrating to go from winning to losing. No one likes to lose.

I noticed how hard you were working.

It's so difficult to... *[then articulate what is difficult]*...not have the toy you want. I

know how much you like ...

It's so sad when... our friend doesn't want to play with us.

It must be so frustrating to stop doing an activity you love doing.

I can see how important it is to you.

It makes sense you would be upset about.... *[then articulate why they are upset]*.

It sounds like you feel that it's really unfair!

That must be so disappointing!

I can see how scary this is for you.

I bet you feel really angry.

What a horrible feeling that must be.

It's hard when your friends don't include you, and you feel left out. I would be sad too.

You sound really worried.

I can see how much you love ... *[then articulate what they love]* ... that you don't want to stop/give it up/etc.

I can see how much fun you are having and don't want to stop.



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I can see you don't want to talk about it right now. Can I sit here beside you? I can't even imagine feeling like that. Must be so very hard.

I can see how upset you are right now AND it's not ok to use that language/swear at me... Wow, you must be feeling really horrible right now.

It's hard to feel like no one likes you (or everyone hates you).

I can see you need some time right now. I'll come back in 5 minutes to check on you.

Oh, I see you've got ants in your pants, and you just can't stay still. I know how hard it is for you right now to pay attention.

I know how hard it is to get back into the school routine/doing homework/etc. I have a hard time too when I've had a long break.

Must be overwhelming juggling exams and a final project. Sometimes we just don't know where to start!

You must be in so much pain right now.

I can see you are really angry at me right now AND it's not ok to throw things. Yeah, sometimes it's really hard to even know where to start.

I miss playing with my friends too.

I can see how much you really want to play with all the activities.

I know you are feeling stupid right now and I want you to know, I know how smart you really are.

I can see you don't want to talk about it right now. Can I sit here beside you? I can't even imagine feeling like that. Must be so very hard.

It's completely understandable you are [then articulate the emotion] ...because of the time [then articulate the child's previous experience in a similar situation].

I'm guessing you are really upset about something that happened recently. It makes you so upset that you are having a hard time talking about it.

Of course, you don't have to talk about it right now. Is it ok if I check in on you in 15 min?

I see how hurt you are. I didn't realize how important this was to you.





Examples of Validating Statements TEACHERS/Co-workers ...to help you get started

It's so frustrating you work so hard at preparing great lesson plans and then the kids don't cooperate!

I can understand why you are so frustrated with this student.

You put in so much effort into preparing for your new class. Feels like it's impossible to get it right.

You obviously put a lot of time into this. How disappointing!

It's so hard to juggle the needs of all the students and still meet curriculum requirements.

It makes sense that you are exhausted, managing expectations, curriculum changes, learning new assessment strategies...wow that's a lot!

It is crazy-making. I've heard how you are so clear in your instructions and they still don't seem to listen.

I know how difficult it is to get a new student after school starts, and then for everything to change again in October. That must feel impossible!

I know how organized you are. It's got to be so frustrating to have everything constantly changing.

Must be so overwhelming to feel like you have absolutely no control.

Feels impossible to help a student when you think that the parents aren't in agreement.

It's so difficult to put in all this effort and not know whether you will be declared surplus or moved to another school or even have a job in the fall....

It's so deflating, you worked so hard and it didn't seem to pay off.

What I hear you saying is that it's hard for you and you really struggled with it.

Sounds like you had a rough day. Want to talk about it?

Wow, that must have been hard to hear her say that to you. Wonder why they would say that?

It's such a scary time. So much uncertainty.

It's so hard not being able to control what is going on in schools. I'm struggling with that too!





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Examples of Validating Statements for PARENTS ...to help you get started

So frustrating. I know how much time you are spending with him every night.

It is so hard balancing everything and fitting in speaking with us almost daily.

It's exhausting trying to balance the kids' homework, sports, home and your own work. ARGH, it must be so frustrating.

It's so upsetting to be working so hard and not see the progress you are hoping for. It is really hard.

It's so scary to see your child struggling and feel powerless to help.

It makes sense you would be upset about [then articulate what is upsetting].

It sounds like you feel this is unfair. You are trying so hard and it feels like your child isn't.

It must be so discouraging [then articulate what is discouraging].

I would be [scared, nervous, upset, etc.] if [then articulate what the situation is].

Of course, me too! I would feel the same!

I can see you are really upset right now. Makes sense. AND I could [hear/help/etc.] you more if you could lower your voice.

It's so hard to hear your child use that language toward you and it's still not ok.

I can see why you are worried about that. It's definitely a concern.

Of course you are sad about the break-up. You tried so hard to make it work.

It is really upsetting to talk about it. It's really tough. I recognize this is hard. It would be hard for anyone.

I can see you are really upset with her. She's your child. You love her so much.

When that happens, it really hurts and it makes us feel angry. It's an awful feeling.

Sometimes it feels like we are all alone in this. I am here for you.

