

## Safety First

When people feel safe to interact, a subtle pattern of small behaviors emerges that forms the design of high performing groups. These small behaviors include the following:

- Close physical proximity, often in circles
- Lots of eye contact
- Physical touch (handshakes, fist bumps, hugs)
- Lots of short, energetic exchanges (no long speeches)
- High level of interaction; everyone talks to everyone
- Few interruptions
- Lots of questions
- Intensive, active listening
- Humor, laughter,
- Small attentive courtesies (thank-yous, opening doors, etc.)

Observe a class in your school today and make note of how many times you see these behaviors in the course of the time that people are free to interact.

Remember: The level of a group's performance depends on behavior that says to all involved: *We are safe and connected.*

What can you do to help encourage and increase these types of connecting behaviors?

---

---

---

---