**Slide 2:**

The question I chose for my inquiry is “How does setting clear classroom boundaries impact the teacher/student relationship?”

**Slide 3:**

I believe this question falls under the teacher education competency of collaboration and community engagement

**Slide 4:**

Specifically, I believe it falls under “develop positive and supportive connections with students and colleagues, building professional learning networks”. My question is based on teachers making positive connections with students, doing so while maintaining boundaries.

**Slide 5:**

I also believe it relates to “practise effective communication appropriate to context and audience, enabling responsiveness to diversities of learners” as well as “practice respect for all learners from all cultures, including, specifically, Indigenous leaners.

**Slide 6:**

So why did I choose this question? I think all of us can agree that forming relationships with your students is super important. In multiple of our classes, we have talked about how students will be more engaged if they feel a connection to you. I know first hand how powerful a teacher/student connection can be as I went to many of my high school teachers for both academic struggles as well as personal struggles. The slides show photos of me with some of the teachers that made the biggest impact on me as a student as well as a person. I also got to experience it from the teacher side on my Wednesday visits to a grade 5 classroom. The more I engaged with the students and asked them questions about their lives, the more they were willing to ask me questions about their work or have a conversation with me. The question was inspired by watching my mentor teacher engage with the students. They clearly liked her and she was able to joke with them, but they respected her and listened when she gave instructions. She explained to me that setting boundaries early on was crucial to this, and I wanted to understand why.

**Slide 7:**

Through my research I learned a lot about what boundaries are. Boundaries are different than rules as the main focus of them is positivity, while rules focus more on punishment. The main focus of setting boundaries is respect; meaning respect for the teacher, fellow students, as well as the classroom and school. One of the teacher’s I interviewed expressed that as a teacher, you want the students to learn the material, but also learn to be good people. Setting clear boundaries allows the students to know your expectations and exactly where you stand. It allows students to practice responsibility as they know what is acceptable and it is up to them to meet this standard. Having clear communication and being open to critique is important. It is important to stay firm with your boundaries, but also listen to the students if they believe something to be unreasonable.

**Slide 8:**

Something I learned throughout my inquiry was that there is not a list of perfect boundaries to set in place in every classroom. Each class is different, and some classes will need more boundaries than others. Although I think it is important to set boundaries early on, you can always add boundaries as you see fit. As well, students can have individual boundaries if needed. One of the teacher’s I interviewed told me about a student she has who has a medical condition where they have to use the bathroom quite frequently. If this student needs to use the restroom, they can go regardless of what is happening in class. For other students, they are supposed to wait until the teacher is done instructing. Not all boundaries are not set in stone and can be adapted where needed.

**Slide 9:**

As for the student/teacher relationship, there are many benefits to having a strong connection with your students. Firstly, students will be more willing to learn if they feel connected to the teacher. If the student knows that the teacher is working hard and they care, then they will want to work hard for the teacher. Having a strong relationship will make the students feel safe. As a teacher, you want your students to feel comfortable talking to you, so it is important to create a supportive environment. If there is mutual respect, everything will go smoother and the year will be more enjoyable for both the students and the teacher. Communicating with the students and building their trust allows for them to know exactly what is expected and what is tolerated. There are very few, if any, cons to having a strong student/teacher relationship.

**Slide 10:**

So why is this relevant? Teachers have such a huge impact on their students because they spend so much time with them. In order for students to really learn, they need to feel a connection, and know that the teacher cares. The students are growing, and teachers have to help nurture this growth. One of the most important parts of this profession is creating positive relationships with students, staff, and parents. I know personally, I want to do everything I can to help my students be successful. I want the year to be as enjoyable and as stress-free as possible, so learning about boundaries and the importance of them will help me towards this goal.

**Slide 11:**

For further exploration into my question, I would ask more questions related to boundaries. I would research what happens if you do not set clear boundaries right from the beginning, what are the most important boundaries and why, as well as when is the most appropriate time to introduce boundaries. As stated previously, there is no perfect formula as every class will be unique, but I wonder what other educators have found in regards to boundaries. I believe that I will learn more about boundaries and how to implement them with more experience teaching.

**Slide 12:** Thank you for listening, are there any questions?