

ATTRIBUTES OF SUCCESSFUL TEACHERS

that contribute to success in socializing students



- **SOCIAL ATTRACTIVENESS**, a cheerful disposition, friendliness, emotional maturity, sincerity, and other qualities that indicate good mental health and personal adjustment;
- **EGO STRENGTH**, self-confidence that allows teachers to be calm in a crisis, listen actively without being defensive, avoid win-lose conflicts, and maintain a problem-solving orientation;
- **REALISTIC PERCEPTIONS OF SELF AND STUDENTS**, without letting perceptions become clouded by romanticism, guilt, hostility, or anxiety;
- **ENJOYMENT OF STUDENTS**, while maintaining their identity as an adult, a teacher, and an authority figure; being friendly but not overly familiar; and being comfortable with the group without becoming a group member;
- **CLARITY ABOUT TEACHER ROLES** and comfort in playing them, which enables teachers to explain coherently to students what they expect;
- **PATIENCE AND DETERMINATION** in working with students who persist in testing limits;
- **ACCEPTANCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL**, though not necessarily of all of his or her behavior, and making this attitude clear to students; and
- **THE ABILITY TO STATE AND ACT ON FIRM BUT FLEXIBLE LIMITS**, clear expectations, keeping rules to a minimum and liberalizing them as students become more independent and responsible over time.