



Setting Up a Positive Learning Environment

Training to Go

Session Goals



YOU FOR YOUTH

Today we will...

- Discuss how to create a welcoming and safe environment for students.
- Explore elements of an inclusive and supportive environment.
- Develop procedures and routines that help create clear student expectations.



Assess Your Environment



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- Close your eyes and imagine yourself in the shoes of a student walking into your activity space...
- Does your program environment support positive youth behavior? How do you contribute to that atmosphere?



Physical Space and Atmosphere

Environments have personalities!

- Organize and prepare activity space.
- Have activity materials accessible.
- Personalize your space.
- Create a culture that encourages curiosity and questions.
- Aim for a caring, supportive environment.



Creating a Supportive Environment



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Inclusive
Interactive
Organized
Active
Values
Focused
Relaxed
Learning
Youth



The Right Procedures

The goal is *not* to make *more* rules, but to create an environment that is not dependent on them!



This is done by developing and teaching procedures and routines.



Examples of Procedures



- What to do when you finish your work early.
- What to do when your pencil breaks.
- What to do when you hear an emergency alert signal.
- What to do when you have a question.
- What to do when you need to use the restroom.
- How to enter the activity space.



Teaching Procedures and Routines

Teaching Procedures

1. • **Explain.** State, explain, model and demonstrate the procedure.
 - A procedure is how you want something done.
 - A routine is what the student does automatically without prompting or supervision.
2. • **Rehearse.** Practice the procedure under your supervision.
 - It is the responsibility of the instructor to communicate
 - With repetition, it becomes a habit, practice effectively.
3. • **Reinforce.** Reteach, rehearse, practice, and reinforce the classroom procedure until it becomes a student habit or routine.
 - becomes a habit, practice effectively.
 - Reinforce the classroom procedure until it becomes a student habit or routine.

Teaching procedures is teaching expectations.





Creating a Welcoming Atmosphere

Establishing a daily routine begins with creating a welcoming atmosphere.

What are some examples of ways you create a welcoming environment when students enter your activity space?





Arrival Procedures



- Have your room set up before students arrive.
- Offer a positive greeting (smile or special handshake you create together).
- Invite students into activities.
- Post a daily program schedule or activity guide.
- Prepare a brief 5- to 7-minute warm-up activity
 - Puzzles
 - Student journaling
 - Brainteasers



Communication Procedures



- Signals
- Props
- Call and response



Attention-Getter Activity



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Create your own unique attention grabber.

Next Steps



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What are some ideas we discussed today that might be beneficial for building positivity in your program?