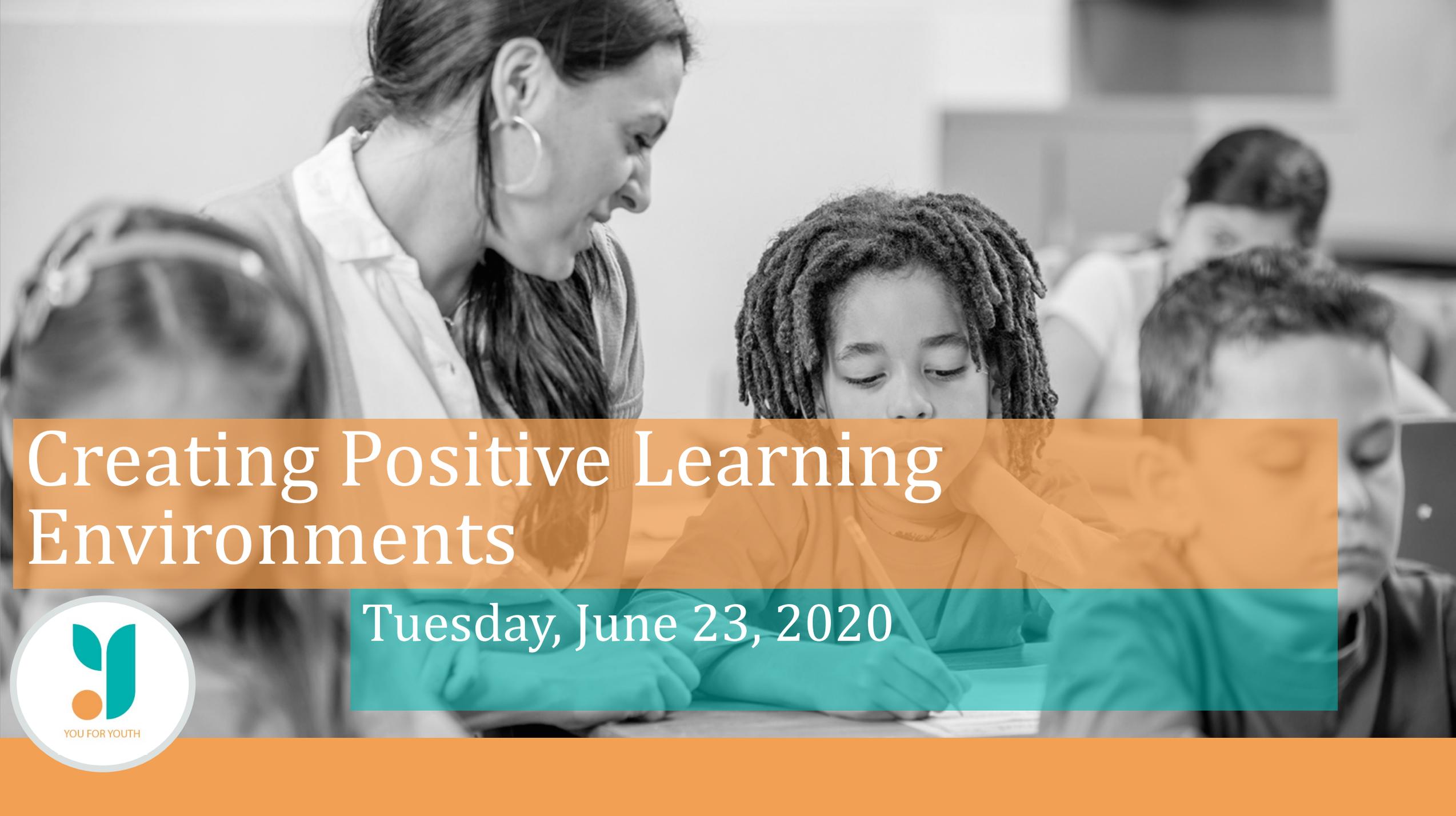




# Name Game!

Introduce yourself to the group in the chat box using **your name** and an **adjective that describes you** and **starts with the first letter of your name.**



# Creating Positive Learning Environments

Tuesday, June 23, 2020





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# Disclaimer



# An Artfully Formed Positive Environment

**1**

**Sketching Your  
Organizational  
Culture**

Monday  
June 22

**2**

**Positive  
Learning  
Environments**

Tuesday  
June 23

**3**

**Safety  
Measures**

Wednesday  
June 24

**4**

**Social and  
Emotional  
Learning**

Thursday  
June 25

# Objectives



-  Discover what it means to create a positive learning environment.
-  Implement strategies to create and sustain a positive learning environment.
-  Identify Y4Y resources that assist with facilitating positive relationships among staff and students.





# Definition

In a positive learning environment, everyone plays an equally important role in creating a place where everyone feels safe and respected.

This environment increases engagement and productivity and enables students to thrive and grow.





# Your Program Environment

Atmosphere

Stakeholder's  
Perception

Student  
Behavior and  
Learning

Relationships

# Six Key Strategies



# Vision Statement



YOU FOR YOUTH



Short

Big  
picture

Inspiring

All students will be safe, healthy and supported; graduate from high school; and grow into mature, successful adults.

STUDENTS  
AND  
FAMILIES



# Mission Statement Supports the Vision

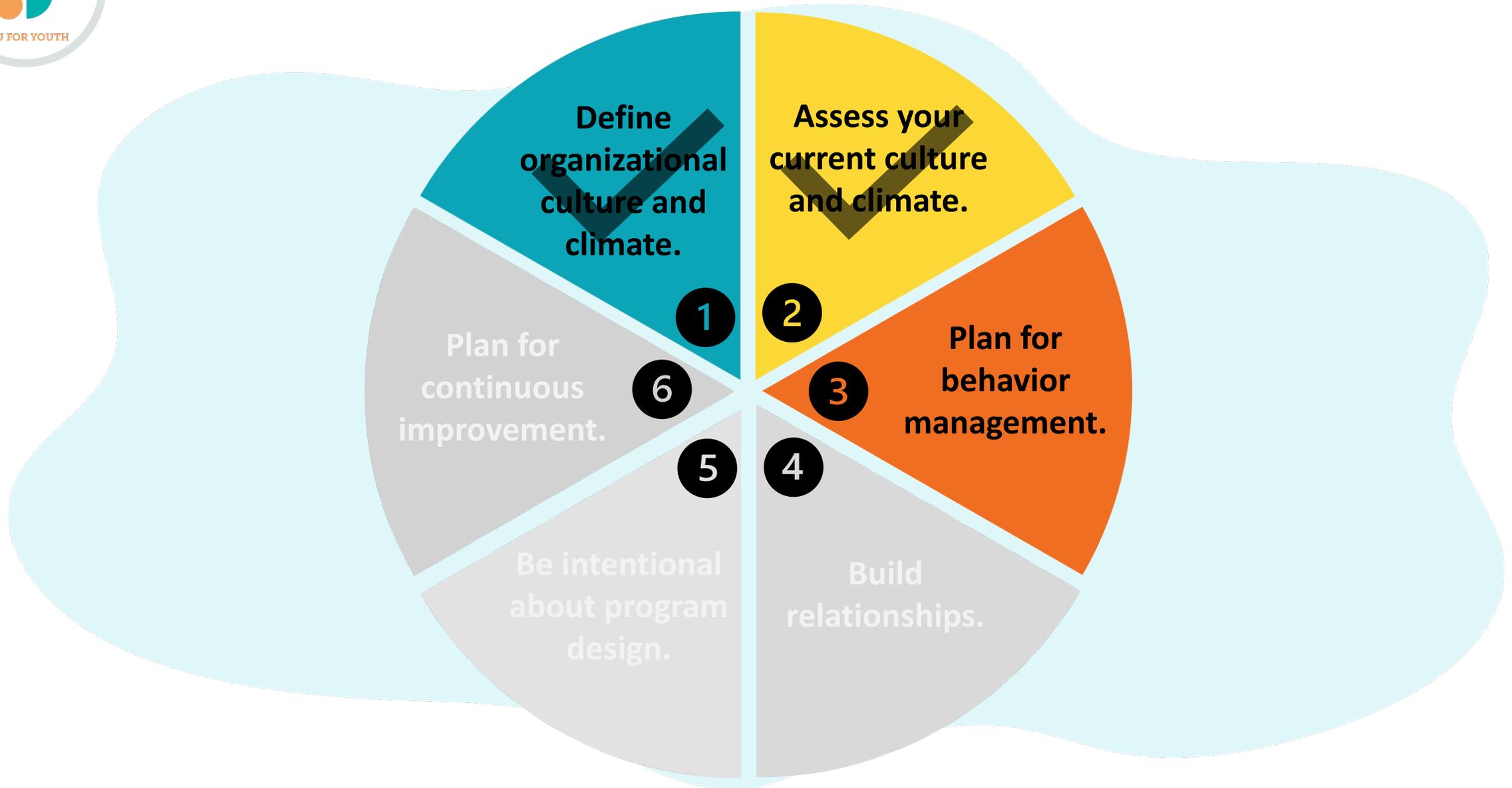


All students will be safe, healthy and supported; graduate from high school; and grow into mature, successful adults.



ABC 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Program will provide evidence-based, out-of-school time activities and family events to support all participants and meet their social, emotional, physical and academic needs.

# Key Strategy 3: Plan for Behavior Management





# Poll

What are the most common negative behaviors you encounter?

1. Students yelling
2. Students not able to transition
3. Students disrupting the activity
4. Students just not engaging
5. Students being defiant

# Proactive Approach to Behavior Management



**Use anchor charts.**

**Provide opportunities to unwind.**

**Have procedures for requesting assistance.**

**Commit to creating a safe place.**

**Use a timer or song for transitions.**

**Share a calendar so students know what's next.**



# Proactive Approach to Behavior Management



**Use engaging learning methods.**

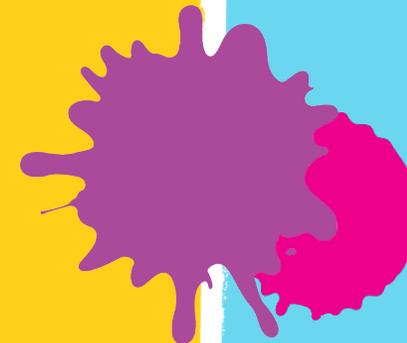
**Provide journaling opportunities.**

**Encourage acts of kindness.**

**Build a compassionate program environment.**

**Keep additional supplies on hand.**

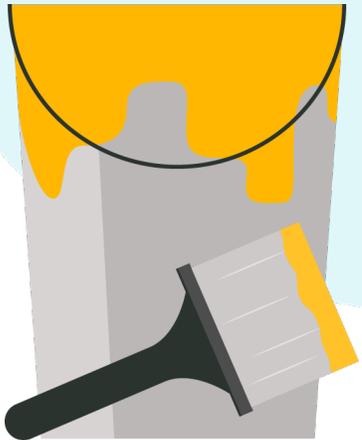
**Have a clear bathroom policy.**





## Scenario

You have students engaged in an activity when suddenly one student is screaming at another student.





## Scenario

Students are transitioning between activities. Two students start arguing and pushing each other. The facilitator makes everyone freeze until the arguing stops. The group loses 10 minutes of activity time while everyone quiets down.



# Behavioral Management Intervention



## Scenario

You're facilitating an activity and a student starts disrupting by asking, "Why do we have to do this?" The child persists even after you tell him you are doing it because it will be fun.

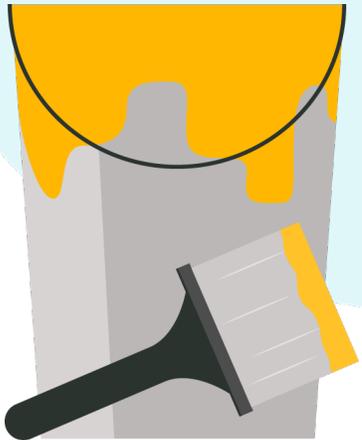


# Behavioral Management Intervention



## Scenario

You've just started a new activity, and all students but one seem to be engaged. You have a conversation with her, and she tells you she just isn't comfortable talking.

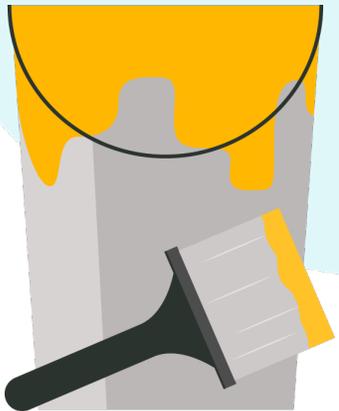


# Behavioral Management Intervention



## Scenario

Your students have just arrived from the school day. As usual, you are having snack and beginning to work on homework. One of your students refuses to do anything.



# Classroom Management Resources



## Classroom Management Resources

### Classroom Management Resources

<https://www.weareteachers.com/classroom-management-ideas-resource-guide/>

Effective classroom management goes a long way toward creating a positive learning environment. These resources, compiled by WeAreTeachers, offer information and tools that can help you devise goals, routines and expectations to build a classroom community where students feel comfortable and supported.

#### [15 Awesome Classroom Management Books](#)

This list offers online reviews of 15 books, many of which focus on positive discipline techniques to encourage improved student behavior and communication. The list aims to direct educators to practical ideas and strategies that will help build positive learning environments.

#### [Classroom Management Anchor Charts](#)

Anchor charts contribute to a positive learning environment by clearly displaying rules, routines and expectations. This article shares 10 examples of creative anchor charts from teachers in the field. You can also find photos and a free, downloadable PDF that includes all the emojis used on the charts.

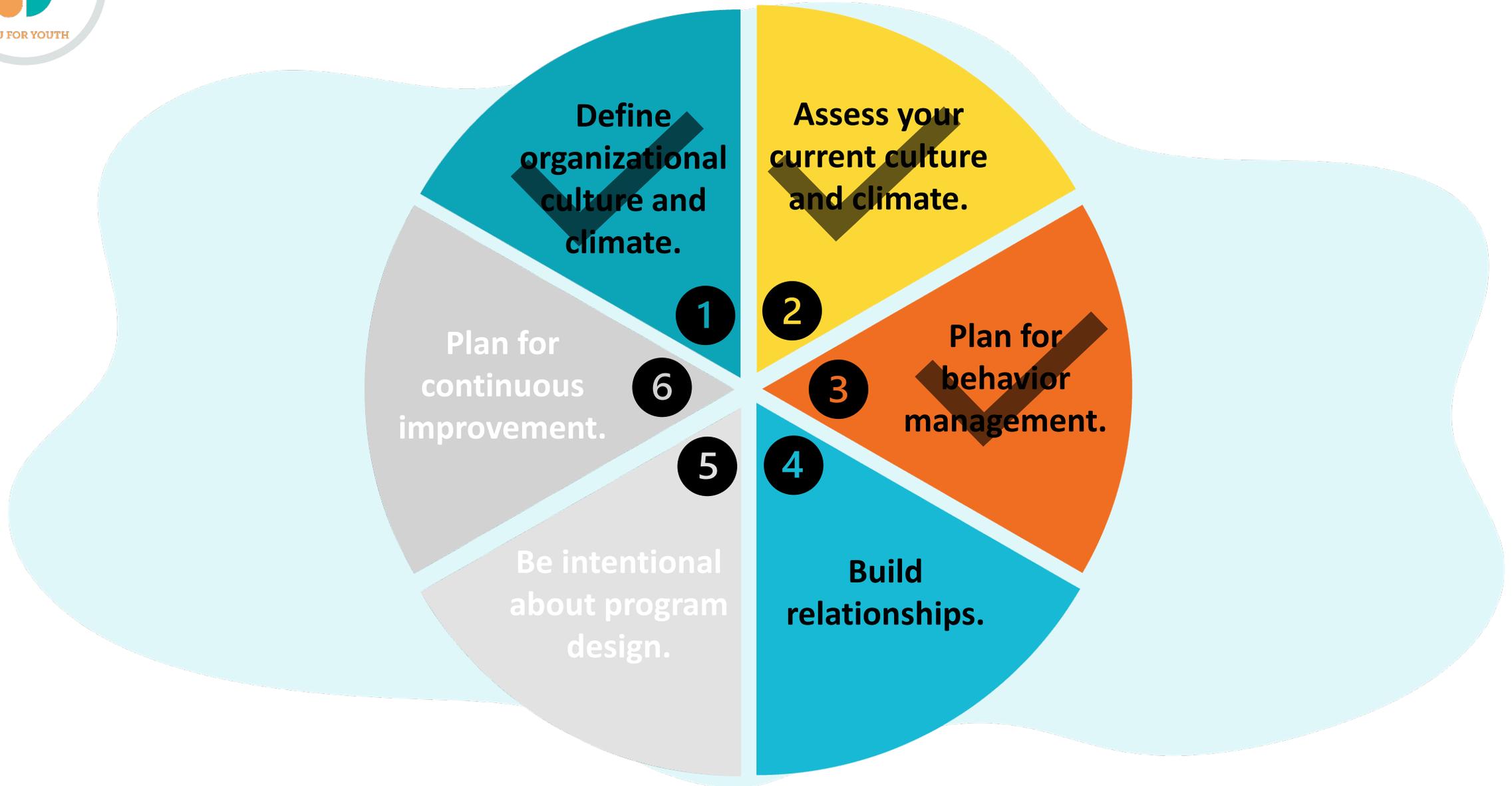
#### [Procedures and Routines](#)

When you establish clear procedures, you empower students to know what to do in different situations, thereby creating a calm, cooperative learning environment. This article gathers 10 procedures that were recommended through the WeAreTeachers HELPLINE group. Suggestions include using hand signals, setting timers for transitions and greeting students at the door.

#### [Tips for Building a Strong Classroom Community](#)

When students work together and feel a sense of belonging, they are much less likely to engage in disruptive behavior. This article offers 10 tips for creating a sense of community, including these: create a classroom constitution, arrange desks to enable cooperative work, and assign weekly jobs.

# Key Strategy 4: Build Relationships





# Step 1 to Building Relationships

1. Show an interest in getting to know each student.

**Break the ice.**

**Get personal.**

**Show you care.**



# Icebreaker Activity



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TwcAl69YSyl&t=149s>

# Connect With Students as Individuals



YOU FOR YOUTH

Talk to students' school-day teachers.

Make a home visit.

Talk about favorite (and not-so favorite) things.

Share your favorite (and not-so favorite) things.

Create a safe environment for discussion.



# Show Students You Care

Watch for opportunities to have conversations with students.

Attend activities students are engaged in outside of school.



# Step 2 to Building Relationships

1. Show an interest in getting to know each student.

Break the ice.

Get personal.

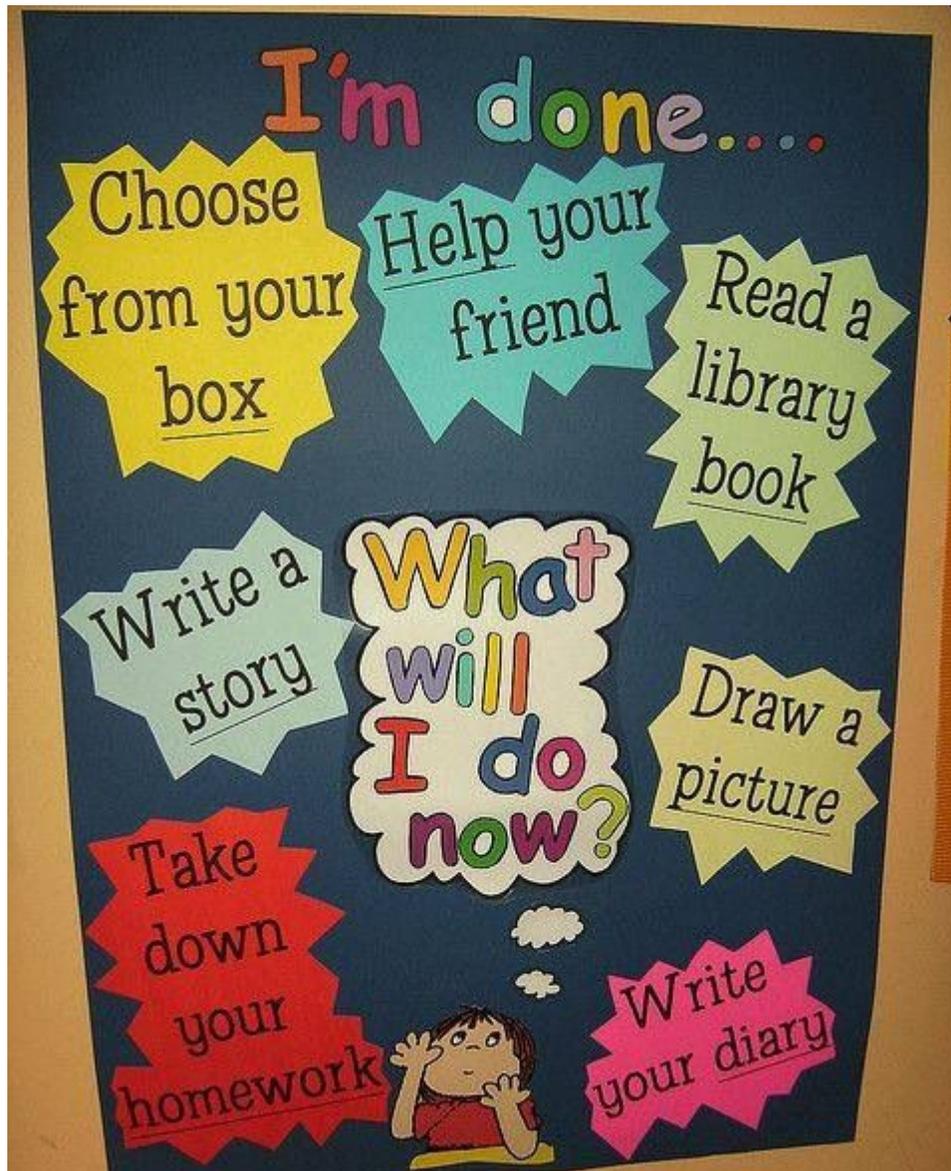
Show you care.

2. Listen to students and honor their talents.

Listen to student voice.

Honor student choice.

# Choice Boards



# “Morning” Meetings



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6\\_pLkwaCeY&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6_pLkwaCeY&feature=youtu.be)

# Step 3 to Building Relationships



YOU FOR YOUTH

1. Show an interest in getting to know each student.

Break the ice.

Get personal.

Show you care.

2. Listen to students and honor their talents.

Listen to student voice.

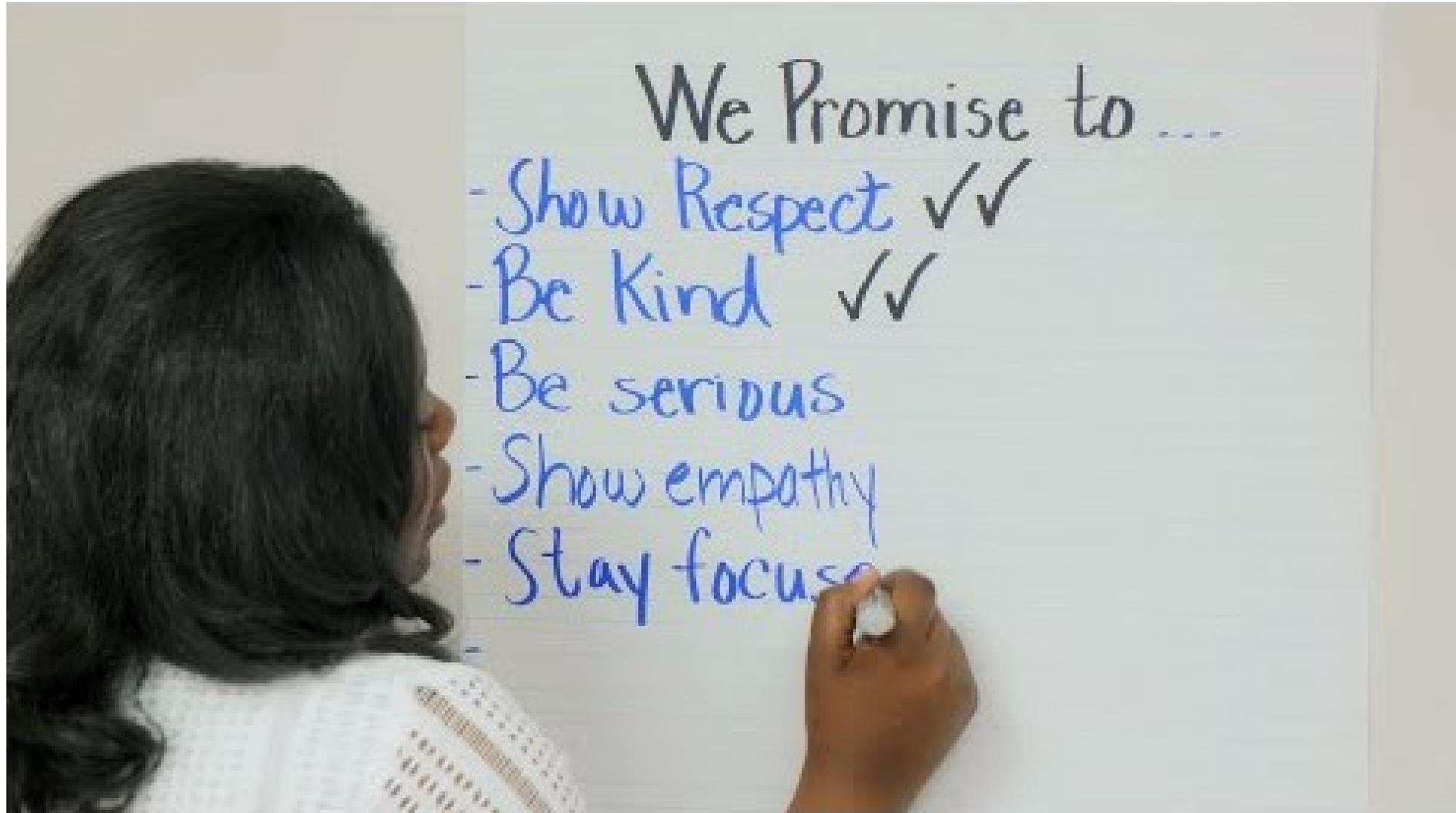
Honor student choice.

3. Encourage students to interact positively with one another.

Norms

Social Contract

# Social Contracts Example



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjzweCyJlok>

# Positive Relationships



What strategies do you use to encourage positive relationships among children in your program?



# Step 4 to Building Relationships



YOU FOR YOUTH

1. Show an interest in getting to know each student.

Break the ice.

Get personal.

Show you care.

2. Listen to students and honor their talents.

Listen to student voice.

Honor student choice.

3. Encourage students to interact positively with one another.

Norms

Social contract

4. Be patient and consistent.

Provide support.

Be responsive, not reactive.

# Tools and Resources



YOU FOR YOUTH



You for Youth | Positive Learning Environment

1

## Classroom Management Resources

### Classroom Management Resources

<https://www.weareteachers.com/classroom-management-resources/>

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This list offers online reviews of 15 books, many of which provide practical ideas and strategies that will help build positive relationships in your classroom.

#### [Classroom Management Anchor Charts](#)

Anchor charts contribute to a positive learning environment by setting expectations and providing visual reminders. This article shares 10 examples of creative anchor charts. You can also find photos and a free, downloadable template for the charts.

#### [Procedures and Routines](#)

When you establish clear procedures, you empower students to handle various situations, thereby creating a calm, cooperative learning environment. This article shares procedures that were recommended through the WeAreTeachers community, including using hand signals, setting timers for transitions, and more.

#### [Tips for Building a Strong Classroom Community](#)

When students work together and feel a sense of belonging, they are more likely to engage in positive behavior. This article offers 10 tips for creating a classroom constitution, arranging desks to enable collaboration, and more.

#### [Classroom Goals Calendar](#)

This downloadable September classroom goals calendar focuses on kindness and positive behavior. Examples include "be welcoming" and "don't be afraid to ask questions."



You for Youth | Positive Learning Environment

1

## Ice Breaker Activities

Creating a positive learning environment starts on the first day of your program. Building relationships with students helps to lay the foundation. Icebreaker activities help students to know each other and begin to feel comfortable. Here are some ideas for icebreakers to get students laughing!

#### "Find Someone Who..." Bingo

Create Bingo cards that include a different experience in each box, such as "has been to the ocean" and "has eaten chocolate ice cream." Players find someone who fits the description, then ask the person's name and write it in the box. Including photos of students in this activity can help everyone relax.

#### Two Truths and a Lie

Give every student an index card and ask them to write down two truths and one lie about themselves. This activity works best between students who don't know each other well. They take turns sharing the three statements and having the others guess which are true and which is a lie. To follow up, you can ask students to share their truths.

#### Name Game

Start by having students stand in a circle. Have a student begin by saying their name followed by an adjective, animal or a gesture. Then, all the other students must repeat the student's name. As you move around the circle, students must repeat the current student's name followed by all of the previous students' names. Once everyone has had a turn to share everyone's introduction, starting with their own. Students will laugh and learn one another's names.

#### Snowball Fight

Have students write at least two facts about themselves on a piece of paper. They then gather in a circle. Tell students to crumple up their sheets of paper and throw them into the middle of the circle. Then, each student should pick up a new paper and take turns reading it out loud. When someone recognizes their facts, they should raise their hand and say what they wrote.

#### House of Cards

Place students in small groups and have them discuss their likes and dislikes. Give each student a stack of index cards and have them write something they have in common on each card. Then, each group builds a tower as the cards are completed. Challenge groups to see who can build the tallest tower.



You for Youth | Positive Learning Environment

1

## Building Student/Educator Relationships Questionnaire

Use this questionnaire to help you get to know your students better. Adapt questions to fit your program needs. Use the responses to capitalize on students' individual interests and to help build positive relationships throughout your program.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

1. List three positive words (attributes) that describe you.

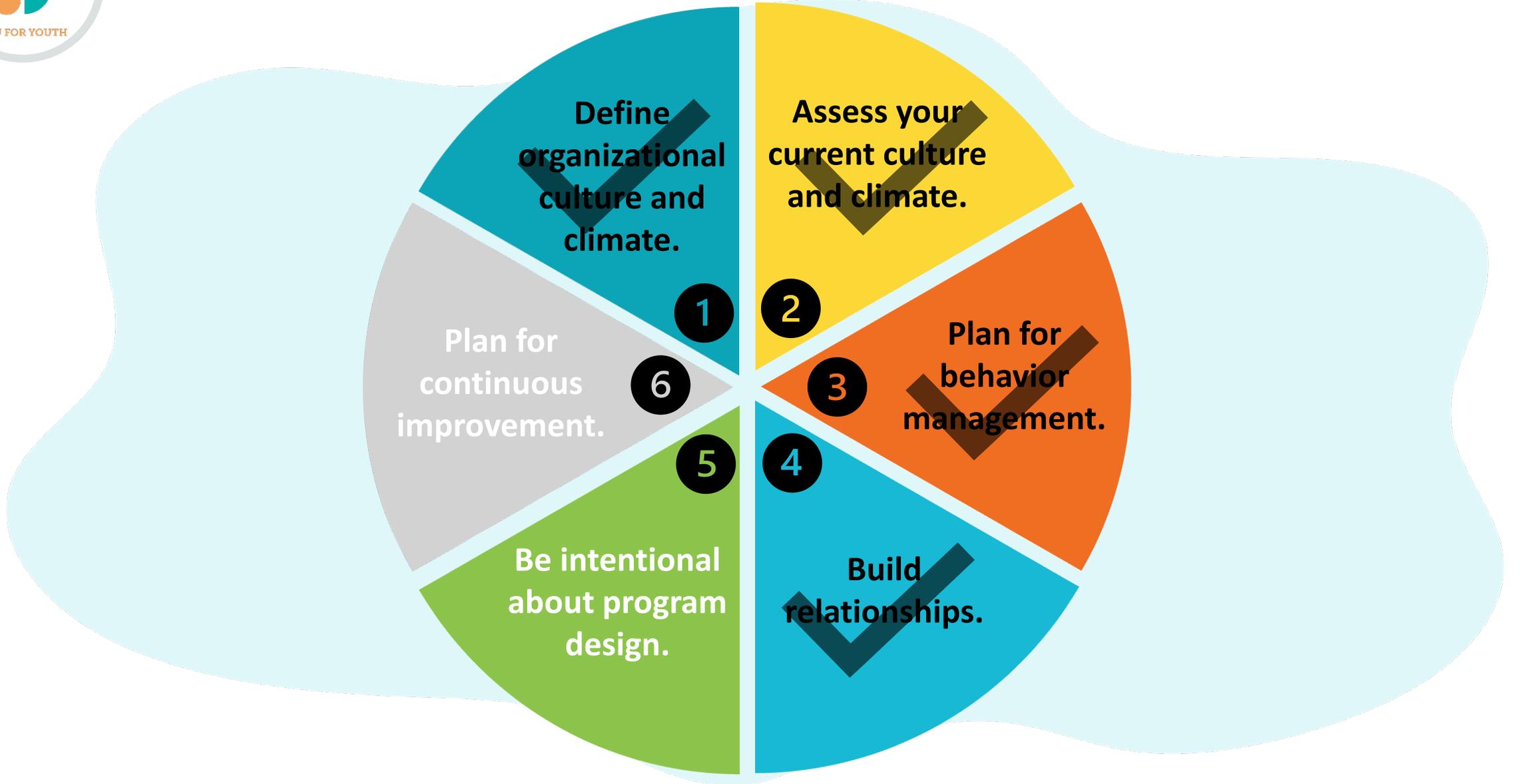
2. What do you love to do when you're not in school?

3. What's your favorite TV show? Movie? Book? Song?

4. Name some foods you like to eat.

5. Think about your favorite teachers. List three things that describe your favorite teachers.

# Key Strategy 5: Be Intentional About Program Design



Define  
organizational  
culture and  
climate.

1

Assess your  
current culture  
and climate.

2

Plan for  
behavior  
management.

3

4

Build  
relationships.

Plan for  
continuous  
improvement.

6

Be intentional  
about program  
design.

5

# Create a Welcoming Environment



*Greet*

Greet students at the door.

*Invite*

Invite students into the room.

*Positive*

Say something positive about your students. Ask how they're doing.

*Praise*

Praise in public and discipline in private.

# Make Learning Fun!



**Allow  
students to  
work in  
teams.**

**Make  
learning  
hands-on.**

**Incorporate  
technology.**

**Limit rules.**

# Adapt Activities for Individual Needs



YOU FOR YOUTH

Provide opportunities.



Give freedom.



Teach social and emotional skills.



Consider special needs.



Praise individual effort.



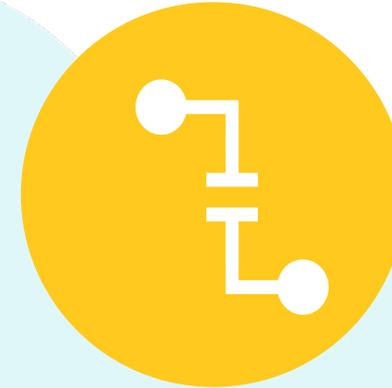
# Program Space



Impacts of  
noise



Crowding



Chaos



Positive and negative  
relationships



Need for  
Supervision



## Strategies for Creating a Positive Learning Environment

### 1. Greet students as they enter the program space every day. Create a welcoming environment by personally greeting students.

- Make eye contact with students and demonstrate verbal excitement to see them. Show interest, ask questions so you can follow up, be genuine and show compassion.
- Light up with enthusiasm when students arrive. You may be one of the few sources of happiness they experience in a day. You can give every student positive human contact and show that you care about each one as a person.
- Make no exception for students with behavioral issues. Assure them that each day is a fresh, new canvas and that today will be great. Catch them doing something good, and give them a positive response. If you draw attention to the interactions you want, any negative behavior may begin to improve.

### 2. Create unique verbal cues and physical interactions with students. Develop a special verbal cue or physical action that encourages positive student-adult interactions and trust.

- Create an amusing call and response for students that engages their active listening skills and participation.
- Develop a special physical action as a way of welcoming students to the program space or recognizing student successes (examples include a high five, fist bump, dance movement or special handshake).
- Encourage student input in creating the verbal cue or action.

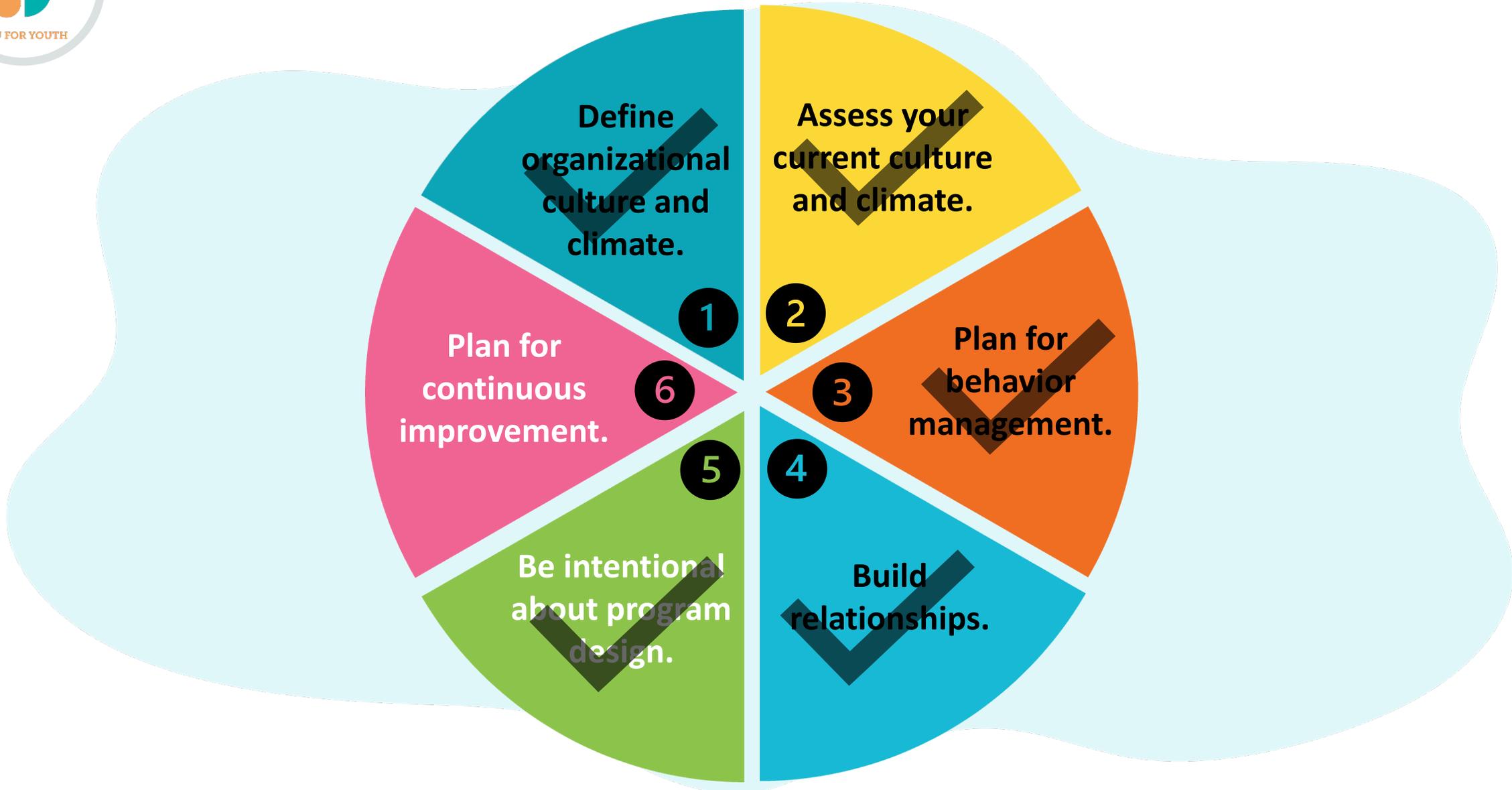
### 3. Build interpersonal relationships.

- Use positive language when addressing students.
- Share appropriate personal anecdotes that show you can relate on matters big and small.
- Make notes to yourself on exchanges, and revisit those notes before the students arrive so you can demonstrate your investment in them.
- Be genuine and reflect the good you see in students' choices. Be there to actively listen when they need you.
- When dealing with discipline, ask the students what they learned and how they can do better next time, and agree on an appropriate consequence. Focus on the behavior and reassure the student that you love having them there, it's the behavior that needs to change to make a safer environment for everyone.

### 4. Communicate and collaborate with all team members.

- Actively participate in staff meetings and team-building activities.
- Share best practice tips and ideas with colleagues.
- Celebrate team successes.
- Have crossover events to build team collaboration.
- Write and share positive notes on the good work team members are doing.

# Key Strategy 6: Plan for Continuous Improvement





# Plan for Continuous Improvement

Monitor

Continually monitor your environment.

Identify

Identify problem areas.

Decide

Decide what to do next.



# Implement With Fidelity

*Do what you said you would do.*

**Is your staff adhering to the values?**

**Does your climate reflect your culture?**

**Does your culture reflect your mission?**

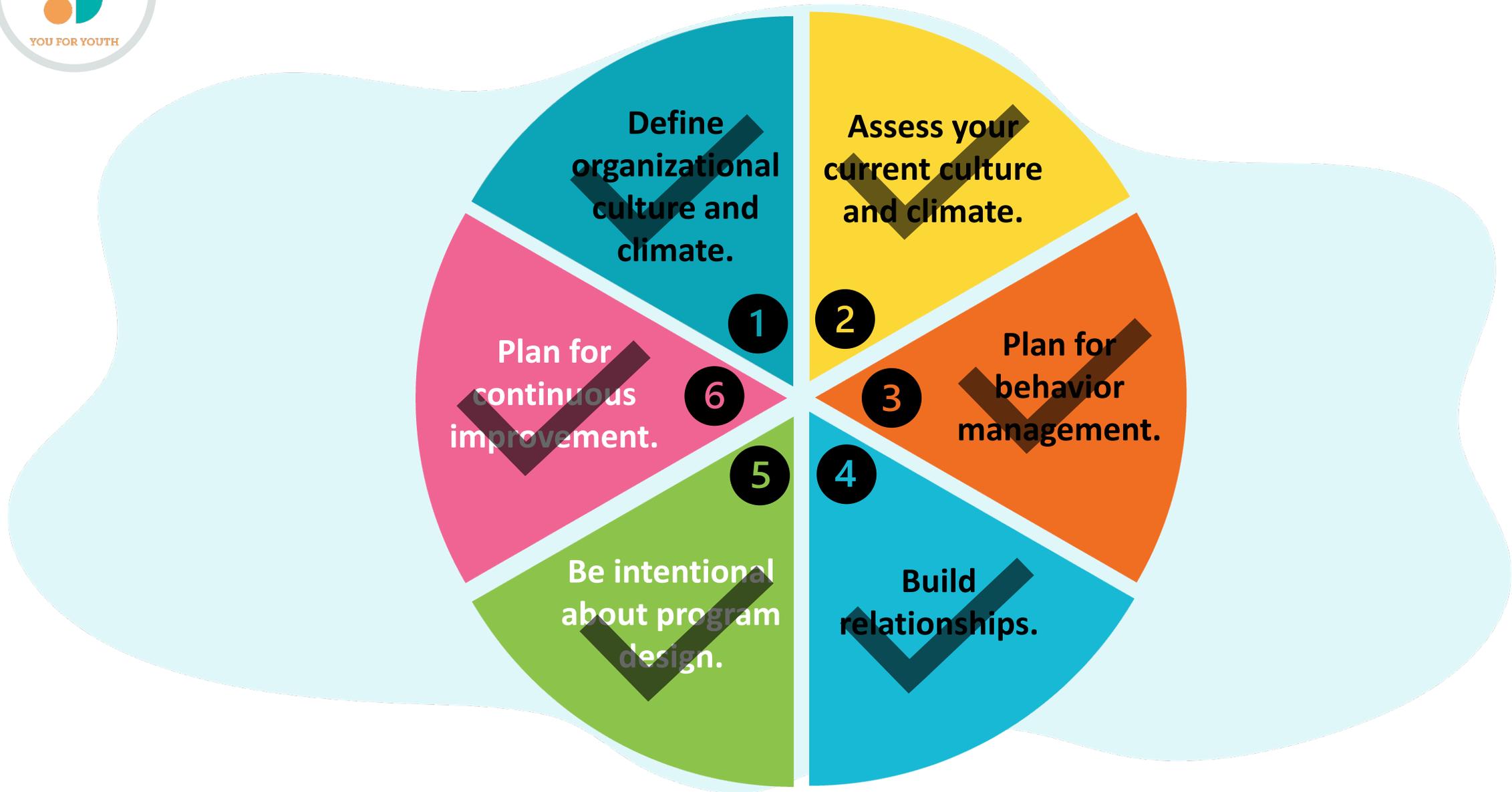
**Does your mission reflect your vision?**

**Are staff members building positive relationships with students and one another?**

**Are staff members considering safety?**

**Are staff members intentional about program and activity design?**

# Six Key Strategies



# Next Steps



What specific next steps will you take to further develop a positive learning environment?

# Trainings To Go!



YOU FOR YOUTH



YOU FOR YOUTH

## Setting Up a Positive Learning Environment

Training to Go



HOME GET STARTED LEARN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES STEM INITIATIVES



Online Professional Learning and Technical Assistance for 21st Century Community Learning Centers



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> Creating a Positive Learning Environment

## Creating a Positive Learning Environment

### Implementation Strategies →

Estimated time to complete: 4 hours

Upon completion, you will receive an **Advanced Level** certificate of completion.

Go step-by-step through planning, designing, implementing and assessing a program environment that enables your staff and students to do their best work. You'll get tips and tools to help you create and sustain an environment where students, their families and program staff feel safe and supported, which will translate to increased engagement.

After you complete this section, you'll be able to

- Assess your program's climate needs.
- Align your program's purpose, values and climate.
- Create a positive culture that generates a safe and supportive program and learning environment for all students.
- Facilitate positive relationships among students and staff.

### Coaching My Staff →

Estimated time to complete: 1 hour

Upon completion, you will receive a **Leadership Level** certificate of completion.

Integrate professional development on how to prepare your staff to utilize best practices for creating a positive learning environment. Use tips and tools to help staff build effective and supportive relationships with students and develop and maintain a welcome environment that aligns with your program culture and climate.

### My Notebook CREATING A POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Save Notes

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### Glossary CREATING A POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

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Show Creating a Positive Learning Environment

# <https://y4y.ed.gov/forums>

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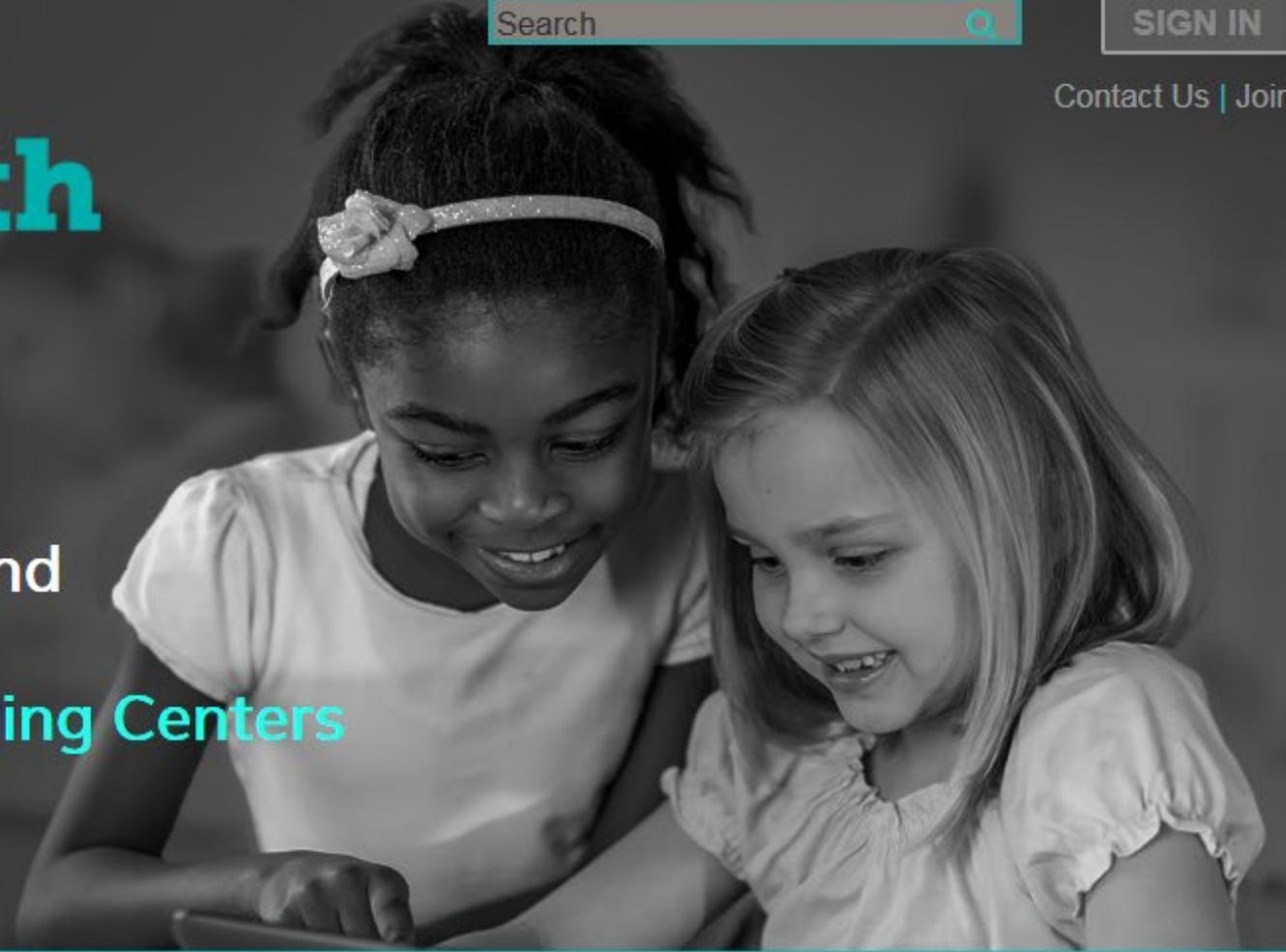


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# Next Time!

## *After Today*

Identify one situation where staff struggled to maintain a positive learning environment and use strategies from today to tell us how it could be changed.

## *Next Steps*

Safety Measures:  
Your Program's Drop Cloth  
Tomorrow  
1 p.m. ET



# Contact Us!



**Kathleen Bethke**  
*KBethke@seiservices.com*



**Chelsea Heffernan**  
*CHeffernan@seiservices.com*

<https://y4y.ed.gov>  
<https://y4y.ed.gov/webinars>

