Creating Opportunities for Appropriate Social Behavior

How can we create opportunities for appropriate behavior?

First, understand opportunities are:

- Always occurring
- Can be natural or created
- Can enhance learning

Next, identify opportunities that can increase appropriate social behavior:

- Initiations
- Acknowledgments
- Collaboration

Specific Feedback

Feedback:

- Is given to increase the likelihood desired behaviors occur again
- Needs to be specific
- Needs to be given immediately following the desired behavior
- Can be paired with a tangible reinforcer

Examples:

- "Nice job choosing a selfcontrol strategy to get calm"
- "Excellent job using a comment to express how you felt about the idea being discussed"
- "I like how you allowed others to take a turn to share an idea"

Non-Examples:

- "Good work"
- "Nice job"
- "Way to go"
- "Thanks for doing that"

Initiations

Initiations:

- Are used to start a conversation
- Begin a greeting
- Are necessary for having conversations
- Show others you are interested
- Are used to seek information from others

Students Need To:

- Identify when to make an initiation
- Understand different types of initiations (non/verbal greetings, eye contact, etc)
- Initiate conversations with various people (adults and peers)
- Initiate conversations for various purposes (obtain help, share an idea, leisure)

Creating Opportunities:

- Provide students opportunities to talk with one another
- Acknowledge initiations made to you by students
- Provide opportunities for students to work collaboratively
- Provide specific feedback on use of skills

Examples:

- "Hey Alex, gotta second?"
- "Mrs. Smith, can I talk with you?"
- "Excuse me Todd, I have been thinking about our assignment and I have come up with some ideas"

Acknowledgments

Acknowledgements:

- Can be done verbally or nonverbally
- Show you're listening and being polite
- Verbal: allow for more ideas to be shared
- Verbal: include comments & clarifiers

Students Need To:

- Wait before responding (3-5 sec)
- Allow speaker to finish before responding
- Make on-topic acknowledgments
- Disagree politely

Creating Opportunities:

- Pair students up who have common interests
- Allow students to acknowledge ideas (good or bad) as they work collaboratively

Examples:

Verbal:

- "That is a great idea"
- "I like that movie too!"
- "I think your idea is interesting but I don't agree"

Non-verbal:

• Nodding head "yes"

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	Nonverbal: can be	Use an appropriate	•	Take time to	•	Shaking head "no"
	done while the speaker	volume and tone		acknowledge	•	Shrugging your
	is talking			students' ideas		shoulders
			•	Provide specific		
				feedback on use of		
				skills		

Collaboration					
 Collaboration: Is a social process that supports learners' development Enables students to learn by drawing on the expertise of their peers Allows students to problem solve and develop critical thinking skills Allows the role of the teacher to shift from being deliverer of material to facilitator of learning experiences 	 Students Need To: Make initiations to discuss assignment Share ideas (using speaker/listener roles) Acknowledge ideas by using comments, clarifiers or extenders Recognize others have differing ideas Identify and respond to others emotions Use self-control strategies to stay calm Come up with solutions to problems Compromise by conceding some of what they want 	 Creating & Facilitating Opportunities: Use the different types of cooperative learning groups to plan lessons accordingly Ask open-ended or non-specific questions Structure group projects by assigning students roles Circulate among groups to ensure understanding Provide time prompts to allow for activity completion Provide immediate and specific feedback 	Objectives: Promote positive Interdependence Hold individuals accountable Provide opportunities for success (See Using Cooperative Learning Groups Tip Sheet)		

Addressing Derails: The student is having difficulty ...

Making Initiations:	Possible Strategies:	Feedback:
 Making initiations to share ideas Identifying appropriate times to make initiations Making initiations with various people (peers and adults) 	 Provide opportunities for collaborative work (make decisions, get information from other students) Structure opportunities by: withholding needed items, run an errand where they have to interact with others socially, etc. 	 Provide specific and immediate feedback when the student demonstrates the behavior "Tom, I appreciate how you waited to talk to Mrs. Smith"
Acknowledging others:	Possible Strategies:	Feedback:
 Responding to greetings Acknowledging the ideas made by their peers Acknowledging teachers respectfully 	Come up with a non-verbal acknowledgement system students can use to acknowledge their teachers in public	Provide specific and immediate feedback (or as soon as you see the student) when the student demonstrates the behavior

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	Have students role-play & discuss situations where they have to identify when/how to acknowledge others	"Sarah, great job acknowledging me on the way to class today"
Working Collaboratively:	Possible Strategies:	Feedback:
 Making initiations to share ideas Acknowledging initiations Acknowledging ideas shared by their partners Understanding give and take needed to compromise 	 Provide pre-corrects Partner student with appropriate peers to model use of skills Provide opportunities to work collaboratively starting with small projects and working towards larger projects 	 Provide specific and immediate feedback when the student demonstrates the behavior "Nice job, allowing everyone to share their ideas, Bob"

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