

# Accommodating Students with Behavioural Concerns

Effective teaching methods and positive classroom environments are key factors in reducing challenging student behaviours such as disruption, aggression or inappropriate social interactions. Providing strategies for students to manage their emotions can maximize their learning potential.

## 1. Effective Teaching Methods

The following teaching methods accommodate the way each student learns best to lessen their anxiety and build confidence:

- Communicating clear learning objectives and expectations
- Being open to supporting students' learning concerns
- Including clear instructions and summaries of essential content
- Applying flexible assessment approaches to monitor learning

## 2. Create Positive Learning Environments

Teachers can identify, address and minimize students' emerging behaviour concerns by:

- Creating an inviting classroom (e.g. welcoming students by name)
- Fostering accepting and inclusive classroom environments
- Recognizing and affirming student strengths
- Empowering students to share their learning and problem-solving perspectives

## 3. Provide Positive Behaviour Supports

In the classroom, positive student behaviour supports may include:

- Providing encouraging feedback on all positive behaviours
- Using signals previously arranged between teacher and student (such as a hand on the shoulder) to bring students back on task
- Teaching, practicing and reinforcing new skills or behaviours as necessary
- Engaging students in problem-solving
- Encouraging students to regroup and begin anew with confidence

## 4. Meet Students' Social Emotional Learning Needs

When teachers assist students in making friends and resolving conflicts, calming themselves when they're upset, and making better choices, students develop the knowledge, attitudes and skills to:

- Identify and manage their emotions
- Set and pursue positive goals
- Communicate caring and concern for others
- Initiate and sustain positive relationships
- Make decisions that demonstrate respect for self and others
- Deal with interpersonal concerns and challenges effectively

Increasingly, educators have turned their attention toward the creation of positive classroom environments in order to enhance student wellbeing and prosocial behaviours such as caring, reciprocity, volunteering and empathy. Through such efforts, students have demonstrated resistance to problem behaviours and decreased risk for developing mental health concerns. Encouraging active participation and student engagement in the school environment plays a crucial role in fostering emotional and behavioural wellbeing among children and youth.

**For online resources as well as the research references that inform this issue, please visit:**  
[www.cea-ace.ca/facts-on-education](http://www.cea-ace.ca/facts-on-education)

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