

Creating Safe & Nurturing Classroom Environments



Brandi Simonsen | Vermont BEST Summer Institute | Summer 2022

Learning Objectives

- Describe the core features of effective classroom practices to support all students and provide examples appropriate to their school context (e.g., grade level, ability level).
- Discuss how we develop habits, and create an action plan to develop habits of effective classroom practices.
- Identify data and systems features needed to scale habits of effective classroom practices.

Take-Aways

- Creating Effective Classrooms Template (Word Doc)
- Action Plan (either add to existing action plan or develop from <u>Google Doc Template</u>)

Resources

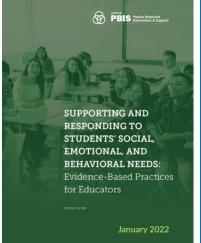
- Supporting and Responding to Students' Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Needs: Evidence-Based Practices for Educators
- Habits of Effective Classroom Practice
- Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) in the Classroom
- Classroom Topic on Center on PBIS Website

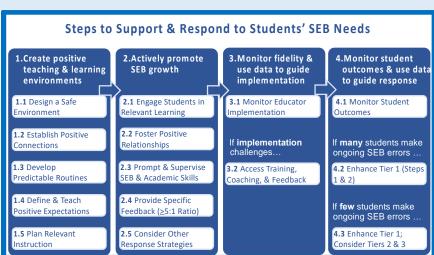
Context

- Ongoing mental health crisis impacts classrooms
 - "Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make healthy choices." (CDC, 2022)
 - In other words, mental health is social (how we connect), emotional (how we feel), and behavioral (how we act)
 (Chafouleas, 2020)
 - We know how to teach & support SEB skills!!!
- Supporting SEB skills in the classroom can be challenging
 - Effective classroom practices are directly linked to students' behavioral and academic outcomes. Decades of research have established (a) effective classroom practices improve outcomes and (b) students' academic & behavior outcomes are closely related.
 - Effective pre- and in-service training promote effective practice. Unfortunately, teachers (a) report limited (if any) pre- and in-service training in behavior support, (b) implement practices at lower levels than desired; and (c) continue to express concerns with student behavior.



Critical Practices





1. Create Positive Teaching & Learning Environments (see Supporting and Responding guide for full details)

Practice	Additional Considerations, Highlighted Examples and Resources
1.1 Design a Safe Environment	Arrange furniture to allow easy traffic flow
	Ensure adequate supervision of all areas
	Designate staff & student areas
	Seating arrangements (groups, carpet, etc.)
1.2 Establish Positive Connections	Highlighted resources:
	• Family-School Collaboration in Positive Behavioral Interventions and
	Supports: Creating a School Atmosphere to Promote Collaboration
	Aligning and Integrating Family Engagement in Positive Behavioral
	Interventions and Supports (PBIS): Concepts and Strategies for Families and
	Schools in Key Contexts
1.3 Develop Predictable Routines	Develop predictable routines & schedule
	Teacher routines: administrative time, personal time
	Student routines: student directed activities, whole group activities,
	independent activities
	Make smooth, rapid transitions between activities throughout the class
	activity and day; teach/practice transition behaviors
1.4 Define & Teach Positive	A small number of positively-stated expectations or norms
Expectations	Teaching matrix (expectations within routines)
	• 2-3 examples of expected behavior within each routine
	See example in <u>Creating Effective Classrooms Template</u>
	 Teach expectations directly using explicit social skills instruction and
	actively involve students & provide practice in context (see lesson plan
	template on p. 2 of <u>Creating Effective Classrooms Template</u>)
	Highlighted resources:
	Creating a PBIS Behavior Teaching Matrix for Remote Instruction
	• PBIS Cultural Responsiveness Field Guide: Resources for Trainers and
	Coaches (especially Appendices D, G, & I)
1.5 Plan Relevant Instruction	Highlighted resources:
	NCII Explicit Instruction Course Content
	Examples of Engaging Instruction to Increase Equity in Education
	PBIS Cultural Responsiveness Field Guide: Resources for Trainers and
	<u>Coaches</u> (especially Appendix J)
	High School PBIS Implementation: Student Voice

2. Actively Promote SEB Growth (see Supporting and Responding guide for full details)

Practice	Additional Considerations, Highlighted Examples and Resources
2.1 Engage Students in Relevant	Plan engaging instruction:
Learning	 Provide high rates of opportunities to respond (OTRs)
	 Consider various observable ways to engage students
	Link engagement with outcome objectives
	Highlighted resources:
	 Classroom Integrated Academics and Behavior Brief
	Effective Instruction as a Protective Factor
2.2 Foster Positive Relationships	Highlighted resources:
	 Positive Greetings at the Door
	Socially Connected While Physically Distant
2.3 Prompt & Supervise SEB &	• Prompts: deliver before behavior, state expected behavior, and remind of
Academic Skills	previously taught behaviors
	Active supervision: move, scan, and interact

Practice	Additional Considerations, Highlighted Examples and Resources
2.4 Provide Specific Feedback	· Why?
(≥5:1 Ratio)	 It works! Decades of research support the relationship between positive and specific feedback and student outcome Positive climate & relationships: Providing positive feedback helps to create a positive classroom climate & develop positive relationships It's all about the ratio! Maintain a favorable ratio of positive to corrective feedback. Provide at least 5 positive statements for every 1 corrective (5:1).
	 What is it? (Simonsen et al. 2008, pp. 362, 364, emphasis added) Specific Praise: "a positive statement, typically provided by the teacher, when a desired behavior occurs (contingent) to inform students specifically what they did well." Specific Error Corrections or Redirections: "an informative statement, typically provided by the teacher, that is given when an undesired behavior occurs (contingent), states the observed behavior, and tells the student exactly what they should do in the future in a brief, concise manner" Error corrections should also be calm, private, and instructional.
2.5 Consider Other Response	Pair additional strategies with specific feedback
Strategies	Highlighted resources:
	• <u>The Student/Teacher Game</u>
	• DITCH THE CLIP! Why Clip Charts Are Not a PBIS Practice and What to Do
	<u>Instead</u>

3. Monitor Fidelity and Use Data to Guide Implementation (see Supporting and Responding guide for full details)

Practice	Additional Considerations, Highlighted Examples and Resources
3.1 Monitor Implementation	 See self-assessment and action plan in <u>Supporting and Responding</u> guide
3.2 Access Training, Coaching, &	Antecedents, behaviors, and consequences (ABCs) of habit development
Feedback	Start simple with key practices (e.g., positive greetings at the door and
	specific prompts, active engagement, specific feedback)
	Apply the ABCs to develop habits of effective practice
	A B C C Consequence
	Antecedent
	 Redesign environment (change cues) Add prompts Teach & practice to fluency Monitor implementation Celebrate success Prevent reward for undesired behavior
	• Focus on habit development systems (applying ABCs) Greet Students Train & Coach Performance Feedback Performance Feedback
	Provide Resources to Support Monitor Fidelity & Celebrate Progress & Successes!
	Outcomes

Practice	Additional Considerations, Highlighted Examples and Resources
	Systems to Support Educators' Classroom Practice
	1. Establish foundations to support classroom PBIS implementation 2. Explicitly train and coach 3. Monitor fidelity & use data to guide implementation
	1.1 Establish priority 2.1 Communicate clear expectations 3.1 Monitor Educator Implementation
	1.2 Secure resources 2.2 Explicitly train
	1.3 Align & integrate with other approaches 2.3 Coach and provide supportive feedback If implementation challenges
	1.4 Promote culture of wellness 2.4 Celebrate successes! 3.2 Differentiate Training, Coaching, & Feedback
	(Systems to Support Classroom Practice graphic updated Feb 2022)
	One example: Self-management
	• What is it?
	We manage our own behavior in the same manner as we manage
	anyone else's (Skinner, 1953).
	Self-management is engaging in one response (the self-managemen
	behavior) that affects the probability of a subsequent behavior (the
	target or desired behavior).
	For example, keeping a "to do" list (self-management behavior) may increase the likelihood that you "do" the third and you list (format).
	increase the likelihood that you "do" the things on your list (target
	behaviors).
	 Why do it? Self-management (following brief training + email coaching prompts
	resulted in desired initial increases in specific classroom management skills across teachers. (Simonsen et al., 2017; Simonsen et al., 2020)
	• How?
	• Set a goal
	 Select a measure (that matches your goal)
	Self-monitor and evaluate
	Self reinforce and share your experiences
	Highlighted resources:
	Habits of Effective Classroom Practice brief and webinar
	• Be+ app

4. Monitor Student Outcomes and Use Data to Guide Response (see Supporting and Responding guide for full details)

Practice	Additional Considerations, Highlighted Examples and Resources
4.1 Monitor Student Outcomes	See lesson plan on p. 2 of <u>Creating Effective Classrooms Template</u>
	Highlighted resources:
	• <u>Progress monitor</u>
	<u>Team-Initiated Problem Solving</u>
4.2 Enhance Tier 1 (Steps 1 & 2)	Highlighted resource:
4.3 Consider Tiers 2 & 3	 Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) in the Classroom