MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
TE TĀHUHU O TE MĀTAURANGA

Design the physical environment to support self regulation

A suggestion for implementing the strategy 'Collaboratively develop a safe and caring culture and climate' from the Guide:

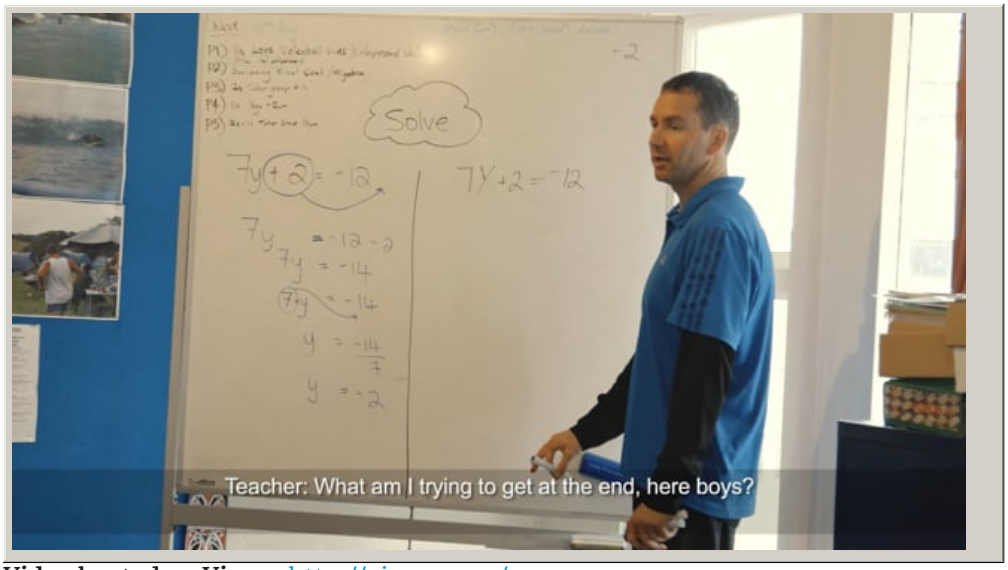
Behaviour and learning

Includes:

- Design for connection
- Consider sensory sensitivities
- Reduce anxiety
- Create peace corners
- Self assessment
- Useful resources

Design for connection

"The environment needs to be conducive to you making a connection so that mutual trust, respect, all those things, can occur."



Video hosted on Vimeo http://vimeo.com/225192007
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Source:
Ministry of Education | Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga (NZ)
https://vimeo.com/user25073968

Inclusive Education
From
Guide: Behaviour and learning
Strategy: Collaboratively develop a safe and caring culture and climate
Suggestion: Design the physical environment to support self regulation
Date
11 October 2021
Link
inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/behaviour-and-learning/design-the-physical-environment-to-support-self-regulation

Consider sensory sensitivities

Consider how the organisation of the learning space could be a trigger for certain behaviours.

Discuss your ideas with students and develop agreed solutions.

Possible triggers	Possible solutions
Resources or materials difficult to find	Label and colour code resources
Unpredictable noisy entry into the classroom	Develop classroom entry protocols
Cluttered chaos of bags and coats	Establish a protocol for how bags will be managed
Classroom layout keeps changing without warning or collaboration	Discuss changes with students and agree on a time frame for changes

Reduce anxiety

Reduce the stress of moving into new spaces by transferring specific furniture or items of importance to the learner.

Video hosted on Vimeo http://vimeo.com/186357831
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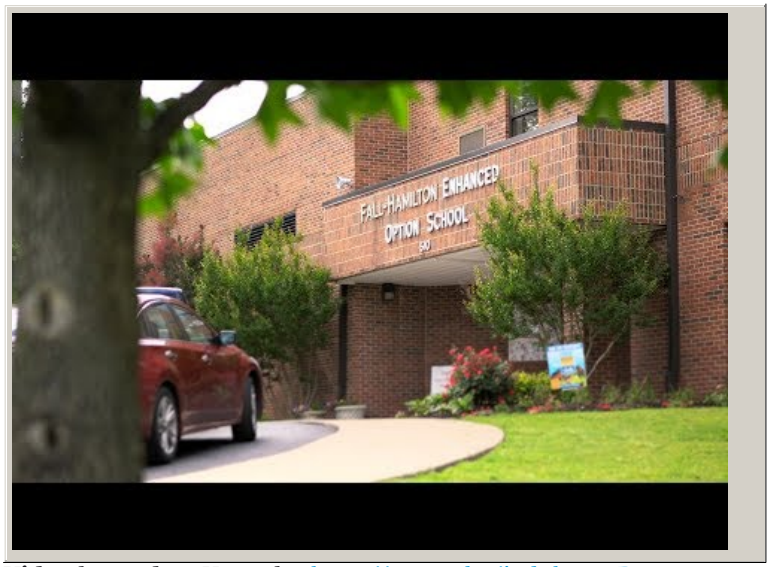
Source:
Ministry of Education, Inclusive Education videos (NZ)
https://vimeo.com/album/2950799

Create peace corners

Involve students in designing quiet, safe spaces to retreat to so they can calm and organise themselves.



Video hosted on Youtube http://youtu.be/iydalwamBtg
Closed Captions

Source:
Edutopia (US)
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdksaQxXH13BMeH009MorBg

Self assessment

Are these strategies emerging, partly in place, or established in your practice?

Illustrate your response with examples from your own teaching.

My relationships with students are warm and caring, reflecting the values of manaakitanga and whanaungatanga.

Visual images and resources reflect and celebrate cultural diversity.

The learning space allows ease of access and movement, and minimises crowding and distraction.

Equipment and materials are clearly labelled, and there are established routines for students to collect and return them.

There is a neutral space available where students can go to calm down if they need to.

Useful resources

Teaching for positive behaviour: Self assessment tool

Publisher: Positive Behaviour for Learning

Download PDF

De-escalation spaces: Helping students manage emotions

Publisher: Edutopia

Visit website

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