

## HOW TO BUILD A SAFE AND MOTIVATING SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT?

by:

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Creating a safe and motivating environment is crucial for the development of every learner. A safe and motivating environment is not all about keeping the pupils safe and keeping them from harm but also fostering emotional security where they feel that they are loved, valued and respected by the people around them. According to research, when pupils feel that they are secure and supported, academic achievement is probably going to rise.

As an educator, it is one of our mandates to build the so called “second home” for our learners. Here are the ways on how we can build a positive learning environment:

### Promote Positive Relationships

Building positive relations with pupils is essential and should be done at the beginning of every school year. Taking notes about their likes and dislikes, strength and weaknesses and even their areas of opportunity is one way of building positive relationship with your pupils. Putting your time and effort in this matter will help you to support not only your pupils individually but also as a group.

### Create Clear and Fair Expectations

Pupils feel secure when they know that there are clear rules and expectations inside and outside their room. By setting those rules and expectations, they will be able to know and understand their limits and boundaries. At the end, confidence will increase and eventually reduce their confusion and anxiety.

## Use positive reinforcement

Positive reinforcement is one of the finest ways to boost students' intrinsic motivation and promote productive work habits. Even if students don't demonstrate complete mastery, teachers should nonetheless acknowledge their efforts. This simple act can boost motivation, enhance learning for pupils and have a transformative impact on their educational experience.

## Keep a positive mindset

Keeping a positive mindset affects not only the interaction between the teacher and pupils but also sets the tone for the entire classroom atmosphere. A teacher's attitude can have a long-lasting effect on pupils' social development, mental health, and academic achievement.

## Share the love

Love is a strong influence in creating a secure and inspiring environment. By showing the value of caring, empathy, and respect not only to pupils but also to the employees and parents, it will develop spaces where they can feel safe. They will not be afraid to take risks and eventually will reach their full potential. Sharing love is not all about affection – it's about creating an environment where people feel valued, motivated and supported in their journey of growth and success.

A safe environment is where one becomes comfortable to work towards real potential, by establishing positive teacher-student relationships, communicating care, developing positive reinforcement, setting clear expectations, and staying positive. It is this environment that promotes academic success for learners, as well as the well-being of learners in the social, emotional, and mental aspects of their lives, therefore leading to flourishing in each aspect of their lives. It is on us, as teachers, to put in place structures

that will support such growth and make each and every student feel encouraged and worthy of excellence.

*References:*

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