

STRENGTH IN SENSITIVITY: HOW BEING A SENSITIVE EDUCATOR BENEFITS CHILDREN

Teaching with CLASS Podcast Season 4 Episode 13

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Resources for educators to enhance their understanding and implementation of sensitivity and responsiveness in the classroom. Here are some strategies to help educators implement this approach effectively:

+ Building Trust and Relationships with Toddlers:

Embrace individuality and meet children where they are regarding their emotional needs and personalities. Provide care, affection, and empathy to foster a sense of security and trust. Engage in positive physical interactions like giving high-fives and hugs to create a warm and welcoming environment. Pay attention to nonverbal cues and respond accordingly to create a supportive and nurturing atmosphere.

+ Supporting Students with Sensory Overload:

Develop an understanding of each child's unique sensory preferences and sensitivities. Create a classroom environment conducive to learning, considering factors such as lighting, colors, and stimulation levels. Implement strategies to minimize sensory overload, such as reducing visual clutter and providing calming sensory activities.

+ Facilitating Learning Through Sensitivity:

Utilize a calm and supportive approach to teaching, fostering an environment where children feel safe and comfortable to explore and learn. Tailor learning activities based on individual interests and capabilities, ensuring tasks are appropriately challenging and engaging. Encourage open communication with parents to gain insights into children's home experiences and emotions, enabling better preparation and support in the classroom.

+ Promoting Adaptability and Patience:

Cultivate a patient and understanding attitude, allowing children to progress at their own pace and providing guidance and support when needed. Avoid labeling and judging children, instead, create a nurturing space where they can express themselves freely and feel accepted for who they are. Foster a culture of adaptability by modifying lesson plans and activities to accommodate the changing needs and preferences of the students.

By prioritizing the emotional well-being and individual needs of each child, educators can create a nurturing space that supports growth, learning, and social-emotional development.

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