# **SELF-REGULATION BEFORE CO-REGULATION** Supporting the Children in your Classroom



Teaching with CLASS® Podcast Season 3 Episode 3 Guest: Dr. Angela Searcy

### Key Take Aways

When was the last time you experienced strong feelings in your classroom? Probably every day. Working with children is demanding and can bring up a lot of strong feelings. Are you considering your own self-regulation needs as well as those of the children you're working with? How can we process all of what we're feeling so we can move through challenging moments and make a difference for each child in our classrooms? This resource will guide you on how to deal with your own self-regulation in challenging moments.

#### + Understanding Emotions in the Classroom:

- Educators experience strong emotions daily, which is normal and expected.
- It's crucial for educators to recognize and address their own self-regulation needs alongside those of their students.
- Emotions in the classroom can be contagious, impacting the overall climate and interactions.

#### + Reflecting on Personal Experience:

- Dr. Searcy shared a personal story about dealing with a challenging behavior (biting) in her classroom, which led to the development of her strategies.
- She emphasized the importance of empathy and understanding the underlying causes of a child's behavior

#### + Strategies for Self-Regulation and Classroom Management:

- Calm Down Tools: Use strategies like taking walks, using cranky lotion, or engaging in calming activities.
- Self Reflection: Evaluate personal responses and behaviors in the classroom.
- Environment Organization: Plan and organize transitions and routines carefully to minimize stress.
- PUSH Acronym:

**P:** Pick out the positive

U: Understand everyone's intentions

S: Seek neutral support

H: Hone in on the child's perspective

#### + Creating Support Systems:

- Schools should have systems in place where teachers can safely express and process their emotions.
- Encourage consistent and reflective practices for dealing with challenging behaviors.

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#### + Implementing Consistent Strategies:

- Use a structured approach to problem-solving and strategy implementation.
- Allow time (4-6 weeks) for strategies to take effect, recognizing that immediate results are not always possible.

#### + Engaging Families:

- Share classroom strategies with families to ensure consistency and support at home.
- Provide concrete tools and activities for families to use, such as patience flashlights or calming activities.

Managing emotions in the classroom is a complex and ongoing process. By recognizing and addressing their own needs, reflecting on personal experiences, and implementing structured strategies, educators can create a supportive and effective learning environment for all children. Dr. Angela Searcy's insights and strategies from Push Past It! offer practical guidance for navigating these challenges.

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