

COMMUNITY IN THE CLASSROOM WITH MR. CHAZZ

Teaching with CLASS® Podcast
Season 3 Episode 1
Guest: Chazz Lewis



In this episode, we feature the energetic and insightful Mr. Chazz Lewis, known for his work on social media and his podcast on Get Vocal. Mr. Chazz shares his journey into teaching, emphasizing the importance of building community and connection in classrooms.

Key Take Aways

- A classroom is a community. It's important to think seriously about what kind of community you want to create in your classroom, and model it consistently. It all starts with you.
- A sense of belonging is important in a community. Make sure all children have a sense of belonging in your classroom. Find ways to connect with children whose behavior is a cry for support, instead of excluding them which destroys their sense of belonging.
- It's okay to let go of being a perfectionist and be an improvenist instead.

+ Building Community in the Classroom:

1. **Authentic Connections:** Building a classroom community is not about one-time activities but involves ongoing, authentic interactions. Educators should talk to children as equals, explaining concepts and fostering a sense of belonging.
2. **Handeling Challenges:** When a child struggles, it's an opportunity to reinforce community values. Educators should respond with understanding and support rather than frustration and chastisement.

+ Practical Strategies:

1. **Model Positive Behavior:** How educators speak to and about children sets the tone for peer interactions. Children mimic adult behavior, so positive modeling is crucial.
2. **Collaborate With Children:** Involve children in problem-solving and decision-making. This empowers them and reinforces their role in the community.
3. **Address Misbehavior Constructively:** View misbehavior as a cry for help. Approach it with empathy, understanding the underlying needs rather than focusing solely on the behavior.

+ Reflective Questions:

- What inspires you to continue choosing the important work you do each day?
- How do you model positive behavior and community values in your classroom?
- How can you respond more constructively to challenging behaviors?

Building a strong classroom community requires intentional effort, genuine interactions, and a commitment to understanding and supporting each child. Educators can create a positive environment where students feel valued and supported by modeling empathy and collaboration.

To listen to this episode and read the transcript, visit our blog at <https://info.teachstone.com/blog/community-in-the-classroom-with-mr-chazz>

