

Exploring Safety Culture

Social engagement is influenced by our felt sense of safety.

Felt safety is based on an individual's life experiences. You cannot just tell someone they are safe; they have to feel safe internally. Felt safety keeps the cortex engaged.

Types of Safety

Physical Safety = ability to keep someone's body safe

- Examples, wearing seatbelts, intervening in fights, safety equipment, a student's placement in the room etc.

Emotional & Psychological Safety = helping students feel safe being themselves.

- Keep in mind cultural differences in expression i.e., volume and tone of voice, body language, etc.
- Giving students the space to express emotions and opinions without being punished.

Social Safety = creating environments where a student feels as sense of belonging and acceptance.

- A student sees themselves represented in the environment and in the learning materials i.e., race, gender, sexuality, body type, etc.

Moral Safety = is about fairness and justice.

- Implicit Bias = unconscious attitudes and/or stereotypes we hold about people
- Explicit Bias = prejudices and/or attitudes that a person is consciously aware of about a certain group
- Both affect how we interact with and set expectations for students

Reflections:

1. Ask yourself "What do I need to feel physically, emotionally, socially, and morally safe?"
2. How do you organize your classroom for emotional and social safety?
3. Think about the educational materials you use in the classroom, do they represent the diversity of your students in terms of race, gender, sexuality, body type, socioeconomic, etc.?

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Resources

Videos:

- Exploring Safety Culture By La Shanda Sugg
- Sometimes You're a Caterpillar by Kat Blaque and Chescaleigh

Quiz:

- Project Implicit

Books:

- Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?: And Other Conversations About Race

Special thanks to our funders and partners who helped create this video series and accompanying materials:



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