

Strategies for Promoting Strengths in the

The following strategies encourage the use of strengths in the classroom and at school. These activities can easily be adapted according to the age and level of development of the student:

Invite students to personalize their workspaces to reflect their preferences, interests and strengths. Encourage students to share the meaning behind personal items in these spaces in order to enhance opportunities for positive and strength-focused interactions in the classroom.

Before teaching a new topic or skill, invite students to share about their prior knowledge of the subject area. Display a list of all the prior learning highlighted by students and refer to the list during lectures and class discussions. Linking new learning to prior knowledge values the experiences and contributions of students.

When assigning group work, ask student to track and report on examples of the strengths or abilities of their team members in contributing to the activity



Strategies for Promoting Strengths in the Classroom

Facilitate a discussion about creating a positive culture in the classroom using students' strengths. As a result of this discussion, identify two or three projects or learning activities to engage students in using their strengths to contribute to the positive environment of the classroom.

Encourage students to think of another student or adult who has contributed to their learning. What are the strengths and positive characteristics of the person who helped or supported them? Organize a "Thank You" activity to recognize this person (e.g., a note, a drawing, a poem).

Look for slogans or short, positive sentences that affirm or encourage the use of strengths, talents and creativity. Post these phrases or slogans in classrooms, hallways or elsewhere in the school. Each week, post new slogans or phrases to keep them updated and interesting.

