

Brandi Simonsen | Vermont BEST Summer Institute | Summer 2025

Learning Objectives

- 1. Describe the core features of effective **classroom practices** to support *all* students, and develop an effective classroom environment plan.
- 2. Discuss how we develop habits, and create an action plan to develop habits to support wellbeing in the classroom.
- 3. Identify data and systems features needed to scale habits of effective classroom practices.

Take-Aways

- <u>Creating Effective Classrooms Template</u> (Word Doc)
- Action Plan (either add to existing action plan or develop from <u>Action Plan Examples</u>)

Resources

- <u>Supporting and Responding to Students' Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Needs: Evidence-Based Practices for</u> <u>Educators</u>
- Habits of Effective Classroom Practice
- Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) in the Classroom
- Classroom Topic on Center on PBIS Website

Context

- Ongoing mental health concerns impacts classrooms
 - "Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make healthy choices." (CDC, 2022)
 - In other words, mental health is social (how we connect), emotional (how we feel), and behavioral (how we act) (Chafouleas, 2020)
 - ⊕ We know how to teach & support SEB skills!!!
- Supporting SEB skills in the classroom can be challenging
 - Effective classroom practices are directly linked to students' behavioral and academic outcomes.
 Decades of research have established (a) effective classroom practices improve outcomes and
 (b) students' academic & behavior outcomes are closely related.



Effective pre- and in-service training promote effective practice. Unfortunately, teachers (a) report limited (if any) pre- and in-service training in behavior support, (b) implement practices at lower levels than desired; and (c) continue to express concerns with student behavior. Fortunately, we know what to do!

Critical Practices





1. Create Positive Teaching & Learning Environments (see Supporting and Responding guide for full details)

Practice	Additional Considerations, Highlighted Examples and Resources
1.1 Design a Safe Environment	Arrange furniture to allow easy traffic flow
	 Ensure adequate supervision of all areas
	Designate staff & student areas
	Seating arrangements (groups, carpet, etc.)
1.2 Establish Positive Connections	Highlighted resources:
	Family-School Collaboration in Positive Behavioral Interventions and
	Supports: Creating a School Atmosphere to Promote Collaboration
	Aligning and Integrating Family Engagement in Positive Behavioral
	Interventions and Supports (PBIS): Concepts and Strategies for Families and
	Schools in Key Contexts
1.3 Develop Predictable Routines	Develop predictable routines & schedule
	 Teacher routines: administrative time, personal time
	 Student routines: student directed activities, whole group activities,
	independent activities
	Make smooth, rapid transitions between activities throughout the class
	activity and day; teach/practice transition behaviors
1.4 Define & Teach Positive	A small number of positively-stated expectations or norms
Expectations	Teaching matrix (expectations within routines)
	 2-3 examples of expected behavior within each routine
	 See example in <u>Creating Effective Classrooms Template</u>
	Teach expectations directly using explicit social skills instruction and
	actively involve students & provide practice in context (see lesson plan
	template on p. 2 of Creating Effective Classrooms Template)
	Highlighted resources:
	<u>Creating a Classroom Teaching Matrix</u>
	PBIS Cultural Responsiveness Field Guide: Resources for Trainers and
	<u>Coaches</u> (especially Appendices D, G, & I)
1.5 Plan Relevant Instruction	Highlighted resources:
	<u>NCII Explicit Instruction Course Content</u>
	Examples of Engaging Instruction to Increase Equity in Education
	PBIS Cultural Responsiveness Field Guide: Resources for Trainers and
	<u>Coaches</u> (especially Appendix J)
	High School PBIS Implementation: Student Voice

2. Actively Promote SEB Growth (see Supporting and Responding guide for full details)

Practice	Additional Considerations, Highlighted Examples and Resources
2.1 Engage Students in Relevant	Plan engaging instruction:
Learning	 Provide high rates of opportunities to respond (OTRs)
	 Consider various observable ways to engage students
	 Link engagement with outcome objectives
	Highlighted resources:
	 <u>Classroom Integrated Academics and Behavior Brief</u>
	<u>Effective Instruction as a Protective Factor</u>
2.2 Foster Positive Relationships	Highlighted resources:
	<u>Positive Greetings at the Door</u>
	Socially Connected While Physically Distant
2.3 Prompt & Supervise SEB &	• Prompts: deliver before behavior, state expected behavior, and remind of
Academic Skills	previously taught behaviors
	Active supervision: move, scan, and interact

Practice	Additional Considerations, Highlighted Examples and Resources
2.4 Provide Specific Feedback	• Why?
(<u>></u> 5:1 Ratio)	 It works! Decades of research support the relationship between positive and specific feedback and student outcome Desitive alignets & relationships: Providing positive feedback holes to
	 Positive climate & relationships: Providing positive feedback helps to create a positive classroom climate & develop positive relationships
	• It's all about the ratio! <i>Maintain a favorable ratio of positive to corrective feedback. Provide at least 5 positive statements for every 1 corrective (5:1).</i>
	What is it? (Simonsen et al. 2008, pp. 362, 364, emphasis added)
	• Specific Praise: "a positive statement, typically provided by the teacher,
	when a desired behavior occurs (contingent) to inform students specifically what they did well."
	• Specific Error Corrections or Redirections: "an informative statement, typically provided by the teacher, that is given when an undesired
	behavior occurs (contingent), states the observed behavior, and tells the
	student exactly what they should do in the future in a brief, concise
2.5 Consider Other Response	 <i>manner.</i>" Error corrections should also be calm, private, and instructional. Pair additional strategies with specific feedback
Strategies	Highlighted resources:
Strategies	The Student/Teacher Game
	DITCH THE CLIP! Why Clip Charts Are Not a PBIS Practice and What to Do
	Instead

3. Monitor Fidelity and Use Data to Guide Implementation (see Supporting and Responding guide for full details)

Practice	Additional Considerations, Highlighted Examples and Resources
3.1 Monitor Implementation	See self-assessment and action plan in <u>Supporting and Responding</u> guide
3.2 Access Training, Coaching, &	Antecedents, behaviors, and consequences (ABCs) of habit development
Feedback	Start simple with key practices (e.g., positive greetings at the door and
	specific prompts, active engagement, specific feedback)
	• Apply the ABCs to develop habits of effective practice



Practice	Additional Considerations, Highlighted Examples and Resources
	Steps to Support & Respond to Educators Implementation Needs
	1. Establish foundations to support classroom PBIS implementation
	1.1 Collaboratively establish priority2.1 Communicate clear expectations3.1 Monitor team implementation of systems (steps 1 & 2)4.1 Monitor educator implementation & acceptability5.1 Monitor valued student outcomes &
	1.2 Secure resources 2.2 Explicitly teach 3.2, 4.2, 5.2 Use continuous improvement process
	1.3 Align & integrate 2.3 Coach & provide supportive feedback If system implementation challenges If educator implementation challenges If students do not benefit equitably Supportive AND responsive reducator
	1.4 Promote culture of wellness 2.4 Celebrate successes! 3.3 Revisit & enhance systems (steps 1-2) 4.3 Differentiate training, coaching, & feedback 5.3 Enhance SEB support & modify training & coaching CLASSROOM Pails Support & modify training & coaching
	 anyone else's (Skinner, 1953). Self-management is engaging in one response (the self-management behavior) that affects the probability of a subsequent behavior (the target or desired behavior). For example, keeping a "to do" list (self-management behavior) may increase the likelihood that you "do" the things on your list (target behaviors). Why do it? Self-management (following brief training + email coaching prompts)
	 resulted in desired initial increases in specific classroom management skills across teachers. (Simonsen et al., 2017; Simonsen et al., 2020) How? Set a goal Select a measure (that matches your goal) Self-monitor and evaluate Self reinforce and share your experiences
	Highlighted resources:
	Habits of Effective Classroom Practice <u>brief</u> and <u>webinar</u>
	• <u>Be+ app</u>

4. Monitor Student Outcomes and Use Data to Guide Response (see Supporting and Responding guide for full details)

Practice	Additional Considerations, Highlighted Examples and Resources
4.1 Monitor Student Outcomes	See lesson plan on p. 2 of <u>Creating Effective Classrooms Template</u>
	Highlighted resources:
	Progress monitor
	<u>Team-Initiated Problem Solving</u>
4.2 Enhance Tier 1 (Steps 1 & 2)	Highlighted resource:
4.3 Consider Tiers 2 & 3	 Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) in the Classroom