

Social and Emotional Learning

Lesson Title: Being Calm

Grade Level: Middle School

Project and Purpose

Students practice exercises to bring them to a state of being calm.

Essential Question

How do we send messages to our minds and bodies to “Be Calm”?

Materials

- Student and leader chairs

Teacher

1. Explain that in this session, students will try a simple guided visualization exercise for helping our minds communicate a “Be Calm” signal to our bodies. This is a skill that can come in handy for many different situations. To illustrate this, use the popcorn strategy of going around to each person in the room to have students share examples of times during their day when they need to calm down.
2. Have students sit in their chairs or on the floor in their own space, not too close to anyone else, leaving at least a hand-span of space between the people around them. As a leader, you can sit in a chair and demonstrate, or you can quietly move around the room as you narrate the exercise.
3. Lead students through an exercise to help their bodies be calm. Use the following narrative: (Note: In the narrative, ellipsis, or the three dots, denote moments of silence, giving time to implement the narration.)
 - Sit quietly and get comfortable your chair. Close your eyes and listen to the rhythm of your breathing. Now, let’s release all the muscles in our bodies and let them relax... Relax your feet... your legs, the palms of your hands, your shoulders and neck... your face. Breathe very slowly...
 - Let’s move very slowly. Try to feel each and every muscle and bone in your body. Start with your hands... Visualize your right hand from the tip of your pinky through all your fingers... all the way up to your elbow... from there to your right shoulder. Everywhere you go, continue to breathe deeply, and visualize your body parts letting go... relaxing... becoming softer... warmer... heavier... Move around to your left shoulder and down to your left arm. From there to your wrist, your hand... and fingers. Move back up to your shoulders, and slowly go up your neck... Continue relaxing into each part of your body... move up to your head. Move around your head to your scalp... to your forehead... your eyebrows and eyes... ears... lips and mouth... to your chin and back again to your neck and shoulders. Go back through the cavity of your chest... notice your heartbeat... Move to your solar plexus, to your stomach... notice what you feel there.
 - Notice how your whole body is relaxing... feeling warm... good... Now move down your right leg... to the knee... ankle... and heel, ball of your foot, and toes. Now move to your left leg. Down to the knee, ankle, heel, ball of your foot, to the end of your toes... Now your whole body is feeling relaxed and calm. Stay with that feeling for a moment or two and enjoy it. Remember that you can come back here whenever you wish... Now, move out slowly and quietly... begin to let your eyes flutter... move your fingers and toes and slowly, very slowly, come back here, to the classroom, to your chair.

