

#smallBIGidea-6

Pedagogy Explained

Use Inclusive Language in Classrooms for an Emotionally Safe Space for the Child

The process of learning begins when a child does not feel judged by her teachers or classmates and fearlessly expresses what she thinks and feels. The way teachers and the adults communicate in a school makes or breaks the feeling of emotional safety for the child.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

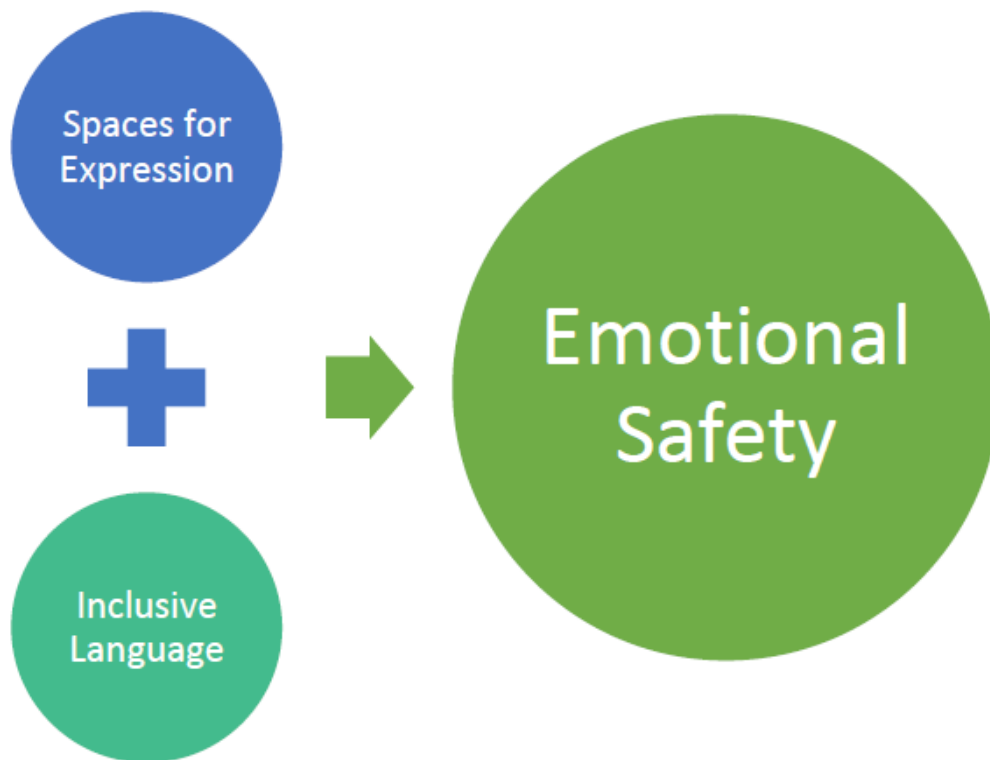
1	List down the commonly used phrases or instructions you give to children during a class.
2	Reflect on how it would make YOU feel if someone were to tell the same to you in a similar tone.
3	Does it make you happy or uncomfortable?
4	If you chose the latter, rethink on how you can frame the sentences better. We have already given you some examples in the poster.
5	You can even do the above as 10 minute activity every staff meeting

Remember:

1. Use the power of “we” and “us” to bring in inclusivity into your language
2. Watch out your tone and volume. Sometimes the most positive of words can also be lost if tone and voice don’t match it.
3. Ensure that your body language is warm, welcoming and accepting. For eg., open arms Vs closed arms.

Pedagogic “Why” for this #SmallBIGidea:

There is a part of the brain that is dedicated to processing emotions. And a stressful and non-inclusive environment can actually affect the neurons in the brain, inhibiting learning. So, how does one create an emotionally safe environment? By allowing students to freely express themselves, and using language that makes everyone feel validated.



An emotionally safe environment has learners who...

- Have a sense of belonging
- Are more open to new thoughts and ideas
- Freely express themselves
- Can assimilate information more easily
- Develop varied interests
- Evenly engage during the session

Supporting Research Articles:

- <https://www.edutopia.org/neuroscience-brain-based-learning-emotional-safety>
- The Influences of Emotion on Learning and Memory ,Frontiers in Psychology, Chai M .Tyng ,Hafeez U .Amin ,Mohamad N .M .Saad and Aamir S .Malik*