Empathy’s Role in the Classroom
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More Than Students

- Variety of needs due to different incoming academic and emotional foundations
- Personalities that can potentially clash or mesh with the staff
- Outside barriers that might impact academic progress

“I genuinely love learning about the beautiful human complexities of each new student I come in contact! This attitude keeps my teaching philosophy progressing and transforming.” – me
Why is Empathy Needed?

- Empathy leads to the development of a positive classroom environment
  - Students sense when a teacher is apathetic or fake and are less motivated to learn
Variety of backgrounds that each educator brings to each center

All want to present innovative ideas to the curriculum

“To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society.”
~ Theodore Roosevelt
How to Support Someone Who Has Experienced Trauma

**Predictability**
Everyone loves surprises! Not. Trauma survivors often prefer predictability because that feels safer.

**Space**
Allow time for the survivor to calm down and take perspective. Trauma survivors often have difficulty regulating emotions and take longer to calm down.

**Perspective**
Be aware when ‘past is intruding into present.’ Don’t take responsibility for what is not yours... gently.

**Recalibration**
Rid ‘over-reacting’, ‘over-sensitive’, or ‘over’-anything from your vocabulary.

**Support**
Be kind, loving, patient... but empathetically set limits - you have needs too!

**Attribution**
Don’t refer to the person’s ‘upbringing, problem, issues, behavior.’ Call it for what it is - trauma.

**Reciprocity**
Give what you also need to receive: listening, empathy, and empowerment.

**Choice**
It can be a big trigger when a survivor is denied choice and control. Confer, collaborate, and cooperate.

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Creating a Genuine Connection

- Unique Students + Motivated Educators = Innovative & Wildly Progressive Education
- Active Listening: The difference between hearing the student and listening to the student
- Empathic Listening Exercises: Great First Day Assignment
- Making your curriculum flexible... some days maybe the student knows best?
Our students come to us for their high school diploma. While they leave us with much more, we must remember that we also gain knowledge and experience from every student we instruct. We are all blessed.

One more nugget of truth...Empathy is not only good for the classroom but also society.