

Social Awareness

Four Strategies That Foster Sociability and Social Learning

1. Teach social skills early

- Create a common **social language** that becomes part of the program culture through practice and repetition
- The language should contain familiar, understandable ways to communicate with others, including:
 - ❖ how to listen,
 - ❖ show gratitude
 - ❖ or apologize

2. Create shared social norms

- Student voice is a basic element in creating shared social norms.
- Facilitate student discussion around ways in which they would feel most supported including:
 - ❖ How they should treat each other,
 - ❖ What it means to respect different opinions and
 - ❖ Ways of learning, and
 - ❖ What happens when they disagree.

3. Engage students in cooperative learning

- When there is joint ownership of an outcome, students learn to work together
- When students learn in supportive, relational groups, they:
 - ❖ learn better
 - ❖ They develop sociability and social skills that strengthen their relationships and
 - ❖ Are better prepared for successful careers.

4. Teaching Perspective Taking and Empathy

- These skills can be taught through participating in community building circles where students are taught
 - ❖ active listening and
 - ❖ reflection strategies