What Works for Teachers in Setting a Positive Class Tone?

- Be friendly. Recognize all your students as people with outside lives and interests.

- Discuss with your class the idea that equality is not always fair, but equity is.

- Let your students know you enjoy your work.

- Model cooperation in working with others.

- Understand that being in a regular class can be scary for students who have been educated separately and have little modeling of mutual acceptance.

- Underline for your students, parents, and others that all learning levels of learning have academic value and that all learning is challenging depending on individual abilities and needs.

- Work with your class on the concept that working with diverse others is a valuable social skill that will help everyone in life.

- Discuss the ideas of individual differences and learning styles.

Experience with inclusion has led to understanding of general ways in which teachers and students can align their teaching with the need to work with all students in a class to involve them in the daily process of inclusion. How can teachers do this? How can teachers lead all students to involvement.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF
WHILE TEACHING

● What are the most important points of this lesson for all students? Which are more minor points that not all students need?

Some points are central. Others are elaborations.

● How do my students learn best? Does this student have an individual learning style?

Most students can learn from my usual style of presentation. This student really needs visual information.

● What enabling adjustments would assist this student to learn more effectively?

Pictures, overhead transparencies, maps, changes to draw answers

● Is the curriculum the master in my classroom, or am I along with my students?

Only you can answer this question.

Support Networking Among Teachers

- Support networking is based on the premise that everyone has capabilities, strengths, gifts, and talents, including students classified as having disabilities, that they can use to provide support and assistance to their fellow community members.

- In support networking, all people are involved in helping and supporting one another in both formal and informal support arrangements. Relationships are reciprocal, rather than some people always serving as helpers and others always being helped.

- Natural supportive relationships in which individuals support one another as peers, friends, or colleagues are as important as providing professional support. A focus on natural supports helps connect people together in classrooms and schools and communities, and, therefore, fosters supportive communities.