Creating the Environment for Learning

The categories of strategies in this section reflect the first priority of a teacher: to create an environment in which students know what is expected of them, have opportunities for regular feedback on their progress, and receive constant messages that they are a vital part of the classroom and are capable of learning even the most challenging content and processes.

These three categories are useful for motivating and focusing student learning and for helping students learn how to work collaboratively with others. They also promote student reflection and ownership of learning.

The strategies in this section include

- Setting Objectives and Providing Feedback
- Reinforcing Effort and Providing Recognition
- Cooperative Learning

Every day, when students enter the school building, they ask themselves two important questions: “Will I be accepted?” and “Can I do the work?” If students cannot answer in the affirmative to both of these questions, then it makes it difficult for them to be successful. Teachers can use the strategies in this section to create a learning environment in which students know what they are supposed to be learning, have clear direction on how well they are progressing toward that learning objective, understand their role as learners, and have an engaging and interactive place to learn. The intentional application of these strategies makes it much more likely for students to be able to answer those two questions with a resounding yes.