Resource Walk: Classroom Environment

This activity is designed to help teachers consider how to set up a classroom environment to support Multilingual Learners (MLs) through a structured exploration of resources on the Multilingual Learning Toolkit.

This activity could be done on its own, or combined with this lesson plan on classroom environment.

In this one-hour activity, teachers:

- Learn to navigate the Multilingual Learning Toolkit

- Explore resources related to classroom environment

- Share their learning with colleagues

Materials needed:

- Copies of the Graphic Organizer

- Access to devices with Internet access for all participants

Suggested Activity

(10 min) Introduce the Multilingual Learning Toolkit & Considerations for Design of Classroom Environment

- See Talking Points

(20 min) Resource Exploration

- Ask teachers to "count off" by letters A through C.
- Teachers should begin exploring the evidence-based strategy area associated with their letter. (*E.g., the Bs should begin with "3B) Provide books and materials in the home language that depict the cultural and linguistic background of children in a positive light. Make sure children of each language and cultural background can see themselves represented in the classroom."*)

- Invite teachers to choose and explore a resource which is located in their lettered area.
- Each teacher should pick one resource description they're especially interested in to "give" to a colleague.
- Teachers can use the attached Graphic Organizer to capture some notes related to the resource that they'd use to help a colleague understand the purpose and use of the resource.

(20 min) Resource Sharing: Give One, Get Two

- Invite each teacher to find a partner who started with a different letter.
- Then, invite pairs to share their "give one" resource with each other, using the "get two" portion of the Graphic Organizer to take notes on the resource they are receiving.
- Then, switch partners and repeat the activity so that each teacher shares the resource they explored on the site, or the resource "given" to them in the first round.
- By the end, each teacher "gets" two different resources from partners.

(10 min) Whole Group Share Out & Closing

- To close, invite teachers to debrief the activity, using the following prompts:
  - An idea I'm taking away or going to implement from today's activity is…
  - A question or wonder I'm still thinking about is…

Graphic Organizer: Give One, Get Two

Give One: Fill out the top portion of the Graphic Organizer to "give one" resource idea to your colleagues.

1. Name of resource:

This resource supports a classroom environment for Multilingual Learners (MLs) because…

Use optional prompts to prepare notes to share information about this resource to a colleague:

Implementation in the classroom might look like…
Key takeaways from this resource are…
This resource is important because…
An additional question or comment I have is…

Get Two: This space is left blank as a place to take notes when you "get two" ideas from colleagues.

2. Name of resource:

3. Name of resource:

Talking Points for Resource Walk: Classroom Environment

Part 1: Introducing the Multilingual Learning Toolkit

- Today we are going to explore a website called the Multilingual Learning Toolkit: www.multilinguallearningtoolkit.org.

- The website is a collection of resources and best practices specifically for educators who support young Multilingual Learners (MLs).

- Some are articles and videos for your learning; others are templates and teaching strategies you can use in the classroom.

- All the resources have been carefully curated by professionals in the field, and you can be confident that everything in the Toolkit is high-quality.

- The site and all of the resources are free and available to all.

- Click "sign in" at the top right, and then click "Please create an account here."

  - Accounts are free—this will enable you to create a "Favorites Library" on the site and save resources in which you're interested.

  - [Give teachers time to create an account.] (5 minutes)

- How the site is organized:

  - The different parts of the site are listed at the top.

  - If you click "Starter Guide" you'll be able to read a description of some foundational principles about teaching MLs.

  - All of the resources are under "Strategies & Resources"—please click there.

  - Scroll down and you'll see eleven different instructional topic areas. Today, we'll focus on #3 Classroom Environment—please click there.

    - The page has a description of what classroom environment is all about, followed by "Strategies in Action," which are profiles of different teachers using strategies to support MLs with considerations for the classroom environment.

    - Below that are a series of evidence-based strategies for setting up an optimal classroom environment.

Part 2: Introducing Bilingual Classrooms

- A classroom's environment can enable language-rich experiences with hands-on, inquiry-based, and content-rich lessons.

- It is important that the classroom environment is both culturally and linguistically responsive and that it demonstrates to children that their cultural backgrounds are valued.

- Children should "see themselves" in the classroom.

- Materials must be actively used and made accessible to children. It should be easy for anyone who comes into the room to receive the message that multilingualism is widely appreciated.