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Engaging Students

Creating classrooms that improve learning

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1. The classroom environment matters to student learning

- 1.1 Classroom environments affect teachers and students
- 1.2 Learning, not silence, must be the end goal
- 1.3 There is a clear body of knowledge about what works best
- 1.4 Universal strategies can defuse minor problems early on

2. Many students are disengaged in Australian classrooms

- 2.1 Classrooms are not out of control but many students are not engaged in learning
 - 2.1.1 Disengagement is worse in low socioeconomic schools
- 2.2 Little is known about why students are not engaging, but boredom is an issue
- 2.3 Students who are disengaged perform worse over time
 - 2.3.1 Quiet disengagement should not go under the radar
 - 2.3.2 Disruptive behaviour affects the learning of others

3. Teachers struggle with low-level disengagement and disruption

- 3.1 Minor behaviour issues are a real concern for teachers
- 3.2 Some teachers are more stressed than others
- 3.3 Teachers want more support
- 3.4 Stressed teachers can fall into a vicious cycle
- 3.5 A no-lose part of the solution is creating better classroom environments

4. How to create classrooms that improve learning

- 4.1 Preventive approaches
 - 4.1.1 High expectations for every student
 - 4.1.2 Good teacher-student relationships
 - 4.1.3 Clarity and structure
 - 4.1.4 Active Learning
- 4.2 Responsive approaches
 - 4.2.1 Encouragement and praise

5. Schools can do more to empower teachers

- 5.1 School-wide approaches are critical
- 5.2 Schools should also provide practical support
 - 5.2.1 Create better induction programs
 - 5.2.2 Ensure teachers collaborate with colleagues
 - 5.2.3 Provide teachers with the tools to assess and improve their approaches to engaging students
 - 5.2.4 Provide extra support for teachers confronted by serious misbehaviour