

**Women Teaching Girls**

**Interactive Training Modules**

# Girl-friendly classrooms

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The Village Teacher

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# Women Teaching Girls

## Interactive Training Modules

### Women Teaching Girls Self-paced training modules

The female brain  
Girl-friendly classrooms  
A girl's need for social interaction  
Risk-taking and problem solving  
Girls and difficult subjects  
Good girls syndrome  
Girls' self-esteem and confidence  
Empowering girls  
Teaching girls who struggle  
Girls and exam anxiety  
Girls who try too hard  
Be an empowering teacher

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## **Girl-friendly classrooms**

Girls have particular needs in the classroom. Many teachers do provide girls with encouragement and confidence to achieve outstanding education. In this module I have pointed out some of the things that teachers can do to make a significant difference to girls during classroom learning. These strategies are simple to implement and can make a big difference to how well girls learn.

- #1 Thank you for letting me show and say what I am feeling.
- #2 Thank you for empowering me to take risks that I was unsure of.
- #3 Thank you for creating groups for me to work in.
- #4 Thank you for giving me time to think clearly before completing my work.
- #5 Thank you for giving me opportunities to talk before I start to write.
- #6 Thank you for looking at my face when you speak to me.
- #7 Thank you for using a soft voice when you are close to me.
- #8 Writing should not be a rushed event. In fact, prior to the advent of the ballpoint pen, writing had to be a slow process or the writer would have ink all over the page!

- #9 Make sure the process of creating written documents is fun. Humour engages the right hemisphere so use it liberally.
- #10 Thank you for linking difficult concepts to practical examples.
- #11 Thank you for linking important concepts in ways that trigger my emotional attachment.
- #12 Thank you for encouraging me to write my thoughts in a journal.
- #13 Thank you for smiling at me and using my name.
- #14 Thank you for highlighting difficult ideas with visual examples.
- #15 Thank you for being a positive role model whom I can admire and learn from.
- #16 Thank you for building a friendly relationship with me.
- #17 Thank you for spending some time up close to me (zone 3).
- #18 Thank you for getting to know my preferred learning styles.
- #19 Thank you for encouraging me to speak with a powerful voice.

#20 Thank you for teaching me similarities and differences.

#21 Thank you for providing ample time for me to be confident in my work.

#22 **Strategies for raising your student's self- portrait**

- Encourage your student to be a risk-taker rather than always taking the safe road
- Discourage your student from any and all self-put-downs
- Make an effort to reduce the emphasis on external measures of success
- Work at reducing complaining and whining behaviour

More strategies

- Focus your **criticisms on actions**, not on the value of the person
- Encourage your student to be excited about everything in life.
- Help them avoid the “I’m bored” routine.
- Encourage your student to be independent rather than dependent
- Teach your student to be non-judgmental
- Encourage your student to be honest with himself
- Be aware of the importance of appearance in teen boys and girls

More strategies

- Encourage your student to think in healthy rather than in sick ways
- Catch your student **doing something right**, and remind them on a regular basis of how terrific they are

- Treat your student as though she has arrived as a total, complete human

#### More strategies

- Be supportive of his efforts to be independent
- Help him develop **positive self-pictures** in his head
- Teach her to avoid destructive self-talk

- #23 A teen's self-image is the most important factor in their **happiness and fulfillment**.  
A girl who believes that the world is a good and miraculous place, and that **she is special and loved**,  
has a tremendous advantage over a girl who is doubting and negative.
- #24 Thank you for reading fiction aloud to me.
- #25 Thank you for starting every lesson with an engaging and motivating activity.
- #26 Thank you for encouraging me to trust in my own abilities.
- #27 Thank you for helping me to be who I want to be.
- #28 Thank you for showing me that I am OK; that I can like myself.
- #29 Thank you for showing that you like me.

- #30 Thank you for not talking too much.
- #31 Thank you for allowing me to talk and listen to others before starting a writing assignment.
- #32 Thank you for disciplining me up close (zone 3).
- #33 Thank you for making maths/science relevant to my life.
- #34 Thank you for not allowing me to rely on my calculator.
- #35 Girls tend to think fair is results for effort rather than end result. Many girls will put effort into presentation and fancy folders to create an image of spending lots of effort on the project. Accept a simple cover page and nothing more.
- #36 Maths Anxiety
- Many girls suffer in test situations and state, “I just couldn’t remember how to solve the problems.” The key issue is anticipation of the test. So look for strategies to relieve the stress of taking maths tests.
- #37 Give frequent small tests to assimilate the girls to maths test situations.  
Give them tests to take home to complete.

#38 Girls direct their energies to mastery of material. Boys are more concerned with performance.

Because girls believe in the benefit of effort, they are more willing to work hard.#49

Self-handicapping; deliberately compromising your performance (by partying, etc) is also an indicator of maths anxiety.

#39 One on one tutoring will boost a girl's confidence. Try using intergenerational tutoring/mentoring.

#40 Girls who lack focus may need to be given written instructions at the time you are giving verbal instructions.

#41 Thank you for helping me to become a problem solver.

#42 Thank you for reducing my test anxiety.

#43 Thank you for giving both written and verbal instructions.

#44 Thank you for asking me open-ended questions.

#45 Thank you for providing me with hands-on experiences.

#46 Thank you for giving me chances to ask and answer questions.

#47 Thank you for bringing female role models into my life.

#48 Thank you for building my spatial awareness.

#49 Thank you for helping me overcome my limiting beliefs.

#50 Thank you for letting my parents know that I am doing OK.

#51 Peer tutoring

Many students comprehend ideas clearly after having them explained by fellow students. The peer tutoring process helps the tutoring child to reinforce their learning.#65

Learning styles

Children learn better when they are using their stronger senses and learning preferences.

A study of learning style preferences can help a teacher make their classroom a great learning place for every student, regardless of their ability or motivation.

#52 Thank you for providing hands-on manipulatives for maths and science.

#53 Thank you for varying the pace of your lessons so that I can re-engage after losing attention.

#54 Thank you for showing me how to use mind mapping to sort out my ideas.

**Two Page Plan** – Girl-friendly classrooms

*What features do you already use in your classroom that help girls settle, engage and learn?*

*What tips have you learned in this session that would you would use in your classroom to make it girl-friendly*

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

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