



Active Insight: Evidence in Action

Tip #406



Movement and Literacy

Overview

Combining movement with literacy in Years 3–6 supports students to apply communication and comprehension skills in engaging and meaningful ways. Active learning experiences strengthen memory, focus and wellbeing while encouraging students to explore language, ideas and expression through movement. This approach supports diverse learners by providing varied opportunities for participation, helping students build confidence, deepen understanding and enhance literacy outcomes through purposeful and interactive learning experiences.

Key Teaching Ideas

Use movement activities that help students connect actions with words, ideas and meaning. Encourage students to move, create and express themselves while learning literacy concepts in fun and engaging ways. Include opportunities to work together, share ideas and reflect on learning, helping students build confidence, communication skills and a stronger understanding through active participation.

Practical Application

- Act out verbs and story events to support comprehension and engagement
- Create freeze frames representing key scenes from texts collaboratively
- Use movement spelling challenges reinforcing word recognition and memory development
- Facilitate walk and talk discussions promoting active thinking and communication
- Sequence stories using movement to demonstrate understanding of events clearly

Next Steps

Integrate movement into literacy regularly. [Game Sense approaches](#) support engagement and understanding through active, student-centred learning experiences in literacy contexts.

The Game Sense model is informed by Teaching Games for Understanding (Bunker & Thorpe, 1982), the Game Sense approach (Light, 2013), and contemporary skill acquisition research including ecological dynamics (Davids & Renshaw).

