



Active Insight: Evidence in Action

Tip #524



Building Student Voice

Overview

Student voice in Years 3–6 supports students to investigate and apply strategies that enhance participation and engagement. Providing input builds motivation, strengthens inclusion, and improves program relevance. This approach supports meaningful and responsive physical activity experiences. It encourages students to share ideas, make choices, and contribute actively to movement experiences and learning opportunities. Valuing student voice within physical activity contexts strengthens confidence, belonging, and positive participation.

Key Teaching Ideas

Provide opportunities for students to contribute ideas, make choices, and influence movement experiences within learning programs. Use discussion, feedback, and collaborative planning to strengthen engagement, motivation, and inclusion. Encourage students to express preferences, reflect on participation, and apply strategies that support positive involvement. Provide opportunities for teamwork, decision-making, and shaping meaningful physical activity experiences. Foster supportive environments that build belonging, confidence, wellbeing, and active participation.

Practical Application

- Use student surveys gathering input on activity preferences and engagement
- Provide suggestion boxes encouraging student voice and idea sharing regularly
- Facilitate class discussions supporting collaborative planning and decision making
- Establish student committees guiding activity choices and program development processes
- Design co-created activities supporting ownership and meaningful participation outcomes

Next Steps

Use [Game Sense](#) to support student voice. Student-centred approaches strengthen engagement, ownership, and meaningful participation in physical activity programs.

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).

