Tip #1119: Developing Community Movement Initiatives

Overview

Community movement initiatives build on classroom practice to strengthen movement competence, develop personal and social capability across age groups. These initiatives connect schools with local clubs, health providers and councils, enabling authentic contexts for learning through movement and the transfer of movement skills into daily life. Well-designed initiatives support inclusive participation, scaffold progression and provide data for ongoing curriculum planning. Framing projects as partnerships ensures sustainability and shared responsibility between teachers, students and community stakeholders.

Key Teaching Ideas

Use curriculum-aligned, student-centred approaches that foreground learning through movement and explicit teaching while creating roles that build personal and social capability. Emphasise formative assessment of movement competence and use community events as authentic assessment opportunities. Plan incremental, low-barrier activities that value cultural context and accessibility, and document outcomes to support future funding or partner engagement. Integrating school sport, local clubs and health promotion resources creates mutually reinforcing pathways from classroom learning to community participation.

Practical Application

- **Community Asset Map:** Create a one-page map of nearby parks, clubs and council programs and share it with students. Ask small groups to identify one accessible venue and design a 20-minute inclusive activity that practises movement skills and can run after school.
- **Skills Swap Session:** Invite a local coach or club volunteer for a 30-minute session and have students prepare short demonstrations of a targeted skill. Schedule a lunchtime skills swap where students practise, teach and reflect on movement competence and peer feedback.
- **Community Challenge Framework:** Launch a four-week active-play challenge with simple tracking sheets and classroom goal-setting. Set the first week's targets in class and send a printable challenge sheet home to engage families and local partners.
- **Student Event Leadership:** Assign student leaders to coordinate warm-ups, equipment checks and inclusive modifications during a community event. Brief two students on a ten-

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minute warm-up routine that emphasises safety and learning through movement for younger participants.

- **Outcomes Documentation:** Use photos, short student reflections and simple participation data to create a one-page report for partners. Collect five quick student statements about what they learnt and one photo to include when approaching local councils or Sport Australia for support.

Next Steps

Resources on community movement initiatives and school-community partnerships are available at the Active Education Australia website. Anywhere PD includes tools for student leadership in community-facing programs.

References and Research

1. Australian Sports Commission. *Australian Physical Literacy Framework (2019)* - How developing physical, psychological, social and cognitive capabilities through community movement experiences supports lifelong participation in physical activity and sport.

2. Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA). *Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education (Version 9.0)* - How authentic movement experiences, community engagement and learning through movement develop movement competence, personal and social capability, and lifelong participation in physical activity.

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