Tip #1198: Developing Student Leadership Communication Opportunities

Overview

When students are given structured opportunities to deliver instructions, provide peer feedback, and advocate for inclusive practices, they build communication skills that carry well beyond the lesson. These experiences allow students to actively shape movement contexts through constructive dialogue, and strong peer-to-peer communication creates safer, more supportive physical activity environments for everyone involved. Students who learn to communicate well in physical settings carry that confidence into every other area of school life.

Key Teaching Ideas

Communication skills develop most reliably when they are taught explicitly rather than assumed to emerge naturally. Teachers can provide scaffolded frameworks for giving and receiving peer feedback, ensuring that communication stays constructive and focused on the movement task rather than personal judgement. Positioning student leaders as key communicators of inclusive participation gives them a clear purpose: to explain rule modifications clearly, mediate minor disputes during gameplay, and model the tone and body language that keeps a group functioning well. Practising these skills in low-stakes situations builds the confidence students need for more complex leadership responsibilities.

Practical Application

- **Peer Coaching Protocols:** Introduce structured observation frameworks where students use specific, positive language to give technique feedback to a partner.
- **Student-Led Briefings:** Assign rotating students to deliver the safety and equipment briefing at the start of practical lessons.
- **Conflict Resolution Scenarios:** Use tactical pauses during gameplay to have student captains mediate disputes or clarify rules with both teams.
- **Advocacy Presentations:** Task leadership groups with researching and presenting a proposal to school administration for improving active transport options.
- **Instructional Video Creation:** Have students script and record short instructional videos for junior classes, focusing on clear verbal cues and visual demonstration.

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Next Steps

Teachers looking to develop student communication skills can explore resources on Anywhere PD, including peer feedback frameworks and advocacy tools.

References and Research

Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education – The importance of personal and social capability in developing clear communication skills.

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