The Nine Characteristics of the Critical Skills Classroom

1. Students work as a TEAM
   Try a simple community building activity

2. Students solve problems.
   Take a successful activity from the past and turn it into a challenge.

3. Students publicly exhibit their learning.
   Fill your classroom walls with examples of student work.

4. Students actively reflect on what they are learning and doing.
   Check your toolbox for ideas- carousel, sweep, WASH, thumbs.

5. Students focus on standards of quality.
   Use a looks like/ sounds like/ be like chart.

6. Teachers mediate
   Pose questions rather than provide answers; turn questions back to students.

7. Learning results guide culture and the curriculum.
   Create standards for this lesson with your students.

8. Activities are connected.
   In this lesson, encourage your students to make a connection to the world outside.

9. Students take responsibility for and ownership of their learning.
    Remember the power of “Who wants the chalk?”

Start Small.
Stay Within Your Comfort Zone.
Build For Success.

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