

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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