

Consider approaches that support equity

Students are very sensitive to teacher bias.

To ensure equitable participation in your classroom, include some of the following practices.

Note: Teachers must apply knowledge of a student's needs and sensitivities before inviting participation.

Equity sticks: Write one student's name per stick, place into a cup next to a second, empty cup for the "used" sticks. Each time you ask a student to run an errand, or take leadership, pull out an equity stick. Once they have participated, place their stick in the other cup, and keep on doing this until you've cycled through the class.

Equity tracker: Create a simple "tracker" with students' names on the left side and a column for each day of the week. Each time you call on a student or someone volunteers to speak, jot down a tally mark.

At the end of the week, add up your marks and analyse the data:

- Who is participating the most?
- Who is participating the least?
- What patterns of participation do I see with respect to race, gender, first language, learning ability, location in the room, etc.?

Use this data to set a small participation goal for the following week.

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