

Providing a safe and supportive learning environment in homework clubs

Students from migrant and refugee backgrounds will have a wide range of prior learning experiences including broken or unsafe learning journeys. As tutors it is important to consider how to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for students and the following suggestions below can assist.

ACTIONS	HOW CAN YOU DO THIS?
Be positive and praise effort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and compliment student's achievements and attempts • Focus on what they have done well • Be accepting rather than judgmental • Ask students about their interests and follow up on these
Be reliable and trustworthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do what you say you will and follow through • Meet your commitments • Maintain confidentiality unless the student's safety and wellbeing are at risk • Provide good role modelling • Be available
Communicate respectfully	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pronounce students' names correctly • Use active listening techniques • Model polite forms of body language • Use inclusive body language
Ask relevant questions of students, but also respect their privacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judge whether or not students want to share information • Recognise students control whether to disclose personal stories • Acknowledge students' feelings • If students talk about stressful events, listen and respond in a supportive way
Provide opportunities for appropriate expression of difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage students to ask questions, seek advice/help for problems • Encourage creative expression through a range of mediums

Providing a safe and supportive learning environment in homework clubs

<p>Make students feel safe and secure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Explain rules and expectations ✦ Try to be consistent, calm and clear ✦ Provide routines but also be flexible ✦ Be clear about limits for behaviour
<p>Help students set achievable goals, leading to a positive sense of the future</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Know the students' strengths and interests and build on them ✦ Find out what opportunities exist ✦ Incorporate this into goal setting ✦ Model short and long term goal setting ✦ Encourage optimism about the future and about making progress ✦ Celebrate success and achievements
<p>Encourage friendships and positive relationships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Encourage sharing and connections with other students, especially where there are common interests ✦ Encourage peer support and feedback with tasks
<p>Encourage students to make appropriate choices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Provide opportunities for choice whenever it is practical and within the limits of the program. This will empower students.