

Motivating Our Students

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What is Motivation?

- Motivation is the word derived from the word 'motive' which means needs, desires, wants or drives within the individuals. It is the process of stimulating people to actions to accomplish the goals.

• **Definition:-**

- Internal and external factors that stimulate desire and energy in people to be continually interested and committed to a job, role or subject, or to make an effort to attain a goal.

Motivation results from the interaction of both conscious and unconscious factors such as the:-

- (1) intensity of desire or need,
 - (2) incentive or reward value of the goal, and
 - (3) expectations of the individual and of his or her peers. These factors are the reasons one has for behaving a certain way.
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- An example is a student that spends extra time studying for a test because he or she wants a better grade in the class.

Why Students need Motivation?

- One of the most difficult aspects of [becoming a teacher](#) is learning how to motivate your students. It is also one of the most important.
- Students who are not motivated will not learn effectively. They won't retain information, they won't participate and some of them may even become disruptive.
- A student may be unmotivated for a variety of reasons: They may feel that they have no interest in the subject, find the teacher's methods un-engaging or be distracted by external forces.
- It may even come to light that a student who appeared unmotivated actually has difficulty learning and is need of special attention.

Three Major Causes of Motivational Problems

- Belief that effort will not result in performance
- Belief that performance will not result in rewards
- The value a person places on, or the preference a person has for, certain rewards

Importance of Motivation

- The child that is full of life is full of motives and full of activity. Most motives must be built up as products of educational processes.
- All school work needs to be motivated. Difficult work needs to be strongly motivated to elicit and insure satisfaction on the part of the learner in mastering the subject-matter.
- The learner must be motivated so that his interest will be directed towards a definite objective which will take him far beyond the experiences which are utilized as motivators toward further learning.
- It is generally considered that no lesson plan is complete unless it includes motivation. Learning must be motivated in such a way that interest in the lesson to be learned is built upon the learner's existing interest.

Effective Ways to Motivate Students

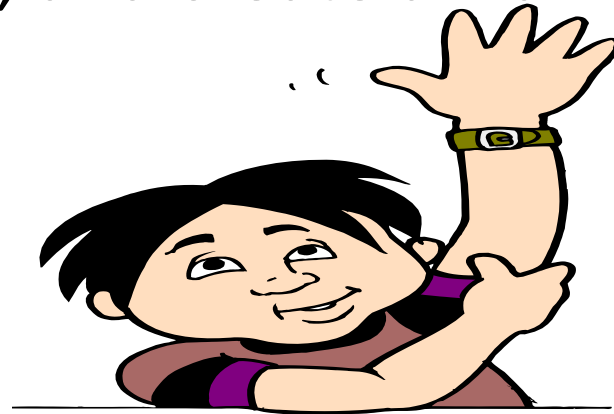
- **1. Encourage Students:-**
- Students look to teachers for approval and positive reinforcement, and are more likely to be enthusiastic about learning if they feel their work is recognized and valued.
- You should encourage open communication and free thinking with your students to make them feel important. Be enthusiastic. Praise your students often.
- Recognize them for their contributions. If your classroom is a friendly place where students feel heard and respected, they will be more eager to learn. A “good job” or “nice work” can go a long way.

- **2. Get Them Involved:-**
- One way to encourage students and teach them responsibility is to get them involved in the classroom.
- Make participating fun by giving each student a job to do. Give students the **responsibility** of tidying up or decorating the classroom.
- Assign a student to **erase the blackboard** or pass out materials. If you are going over a reading in class, ask students to take turns **reading sections out loud**.
- Make students work in groups and assign each a task or role. Giving students a **sense of ownership** allows them to feel accomplished and encourages active participation in class.

3. Offer Incentives:-

- Setting expectations and making reasonable demands encourages students to participate, but sometimes students need an **extra push** in the right direction.
- Offering students small incentives makes learning fun and **motivates students to push themselves**.
- Incentives can range from small to large giving a **special privilege to an exemplary student**, to a class pizza party if the average test score rises.
- Rewards give students a sense of accomplishment and encourage them to work with a goal in mind.

- **4. Get Creative:-**
- Avoid monotony by changing around the structure of your class.
- Teach through games and discussions instead of lectures, encourage students to debate and enrich the subject matter with **visual aids**, like **colorful charts**, **diagrams** and **videos**.
- Your physical classroom should never be boring: **use posters, models, student projects** and **seasonal themes** to **decorate your classroom**, and create a warm, stimulating environment.



- **5. Draw Connections to Real Life:-**
- “When will I ever need this?” This question, too often heard in the classroom, indicates that a student is not engaged.
- If a student does not believe that what they’re **learning is important**, they won’t want to learn, so it’s important to demonstrate how the subject relates to them.
- If you’re teaching **algebra**, take some time to research how it is utilized practically for example, in engineering and share your findings with your students.
- Really amaze them by telling them that they may use it in their career. Showing them that a subject is used everyday by “**real**” people gives it new importance.
- They may never be excited about algebra but if they see how it applies to them, they may be motivated to learn attentively.

THANK YOU

