EMPATHETIC MODELLING

POCKET PEDAGOGY

WHAT IS IT?

Empathetic modelling, or coping modelling, is an approach to modelling that seeks to identify with the struggles children go through when they are learning.

In traditional modelling, a teacher will demonstrate how to do something perfectly. In empathetic modelling, the teacher will demonstrate how to perform the skill BUT they will also make mistakes as they go along.

This so that the children can better identify with the learning process and will hopefully be more likely to persist in the face of failure.

WHAT DOES IT REALLY LOOK LIKE?

- Making mistakes and discussing difficult aspects of the skill during modelling demonstrations.
- Overcoming the difficulties and thinking through them out loud.
- Asking children what they might find difficult about the skill.
- Reward the effort rather than the achievement.

TOP TIP

This approach is best used with children who sometimes struggle in class, BUT only use it as a short-term measure as it can normalise this struggle in the longer-term.

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