

How to turn your learners into learning machines

Goal: Turn an unconfident, defeated learner into a confident learning machine.

Key points:

- The learner may have a gap in their academics, executive function skills (ability to function in a school environment), or behaviors.
- To become a learning machine and to improve their gap, a learner must have the self-awareness to acknowledge the gap.
- To help the learner develop self-awareness, you must first have a relationship with the learner.

Step 1: Develop a relationship with the learner

- Add circle time to your class routine.
- Ask personal questions to get to know the learner.
- Share personal things about yourself so the learner can get to know you.
- Ask the learner how you can help them.
- **Don't** yell at the learner, beat the learner, or make the learner feel slow or stupid.

Step 2: Model self-awareness

- Tell a story about a gap you had and how you improved.

Step 3: Focus on positives

- If the learner makes even a small improvement with their gap, positively reinforce it by telling the learner you noticed the improvement. Encourage the learner to keep up the good work.