



LETE Educators' Mantra



Facilitate

Educators are facilitators of learning and knowledge building versus being 'experts' at the front of the room. Build upon a student(s)/ client(s) prior knowledge (What do they already know? What lived experiences do they have?) Guide a learner towards resources (e.g., Elders, community members, online sources, print documents, and organizations).

➤ Accommodate

Every learner has gifts and unique ways of seeing, hearing, and moving. Every learner has needs. Accommodating means understanding a learner's gifts and their needs and then establishing and fostering a positive, safe, and inclusive learning environment. Accommodate does not mean 'watering down' or expecting less. Rather, accommodate means meeting learners/ clients where they are socially, emotionally, physically, and spiritually and expecting them to thrive.

➤ Collaborate

Indigenous ways of being and knowing emphasize collective approaches and collaboration. Team building amongst staff and with students will create a stronger, healthier education system. Collaboration can foster different points of view and build empathy. Educators are encouraged to reach out to family members, knowledge holders, language keepers, and community organizations.

➤ Communicate

Communication consists of verbal and non-verbal interactions between educators, and students. Verbal messages are what you say, and nonverbal messages are how you say them (tone, body language). A supportive climate has few distortions (sound, physical barriers, lighting). Model active listening skills (asking for feedback, summarizing, and clarifying). Precise delivery involves : knowing your students, adapting to their needs, anticipating misconceptions. These practices communicate respect for learners, foster belonging, and let learners know they are valued.¹

➤ Motivate

Recognize each student's unique gifts, abilities, strengths, passions, and foundations (talents and skills). Practice critical reflective thinking: openly reflect on new information, ask questions, and show curiosity as part of lifelong intellectual humility and generosity where educators and learners build relationships and learn together.²

¹ Cheri Simonds and Pamela Cooper, *Communication for the Classroom Teacher*. 9th Ed. (IL, Pearson, 2011), 8-12.

² Ozlem Sensoy and Robin DiAngelo, *Is Everyone Really Equal?* 2nd Ed. (New York: Teachers College Press, 2017).