



## Creating a Culture for Success

### Educator Series: 3.4 Peace Corners

Welcome to the next session in our "Classroom Management" module. My name is Kim Biskner, and I am an Implementation Specialist here at QuaverEd. In this session, we will learn about Peace Corners. Today we will define what a Peace Corner is, consider how to create a Peace Corner, and discuss how to use a Peace Corner with your students. Let's begin with explaining what a Peace Corner is!

A Peace Corner is a safe place in the room where students can calm their minds and bodies. We know that when a student is escalated, they need time and space to come back down. A Peace Corner provides this outlet. The area can have tools for students to use that reinforce self-regulation. We'll talk about some possibilities in just a moment. It is important to note that a Peace Corner is not meant to be used as a time-out or as a punishment. It is a tool for de-escalation. You can direct a student to use the space, or students can go there on their own.

Let's talk about the setup of the Peace Corner.

- **It should be somewhat removed from the general instruction space, but not out of your eyesight.**
- **Provide a chair or cushion to sit on and a basket or carrier to hold the physical items.**
- **Place a variety of fidget-type options for students to use.**
- **Include a timer so students can monitor when it's time to return to instruction. A two-minute timer is a great option.**

QuaverReady offers Peace Corner resources for you to use. Let's dive into the curriculum to explore these! These can be found under Interventions. Here, you'll find Peace Corner Scripts that can be posted on a wall or placed in a binder in your Peace Corner. These are great visual cues for emotional regulation and coping strategies. Let's click into the Peace Corner- Calm Down script to explore one.

Notice on the first page that students are provided with four visual strategies on ways to calm down. As we scroll down to the second page, QuaverReady provides two activities with QR codes that students can scan to participate in a calm down activity. You may choose to include a tablet in your Peace Corner so students can access these QuaverReady resources digitally. You can decide whether to offer this technology option based on your students and their behaviors.

Once you've created your Peace Corner, you will need to explicitly teach students how to use it throughout the first few days of school. This is an opportunity for a cross-curricular connection. Share a favorite book with an example of a character experiencing big feelings. Connect with that character as you introduce the routine.

Let students know they might sometimes need to take a break when they are feeling a big emotion, and that is OK. The Peace Corner is a place in the room where students can take that break.

Introduce students to the space and the tools in it. Model how to use the tools appropriately. Show them the timer. Let them know that when the timer runs out, they should clean up any tools used and rejoin the class. Model appropriate usage, and have students watch and provide feedback. They should notice your walking feet, calm body, and usage of the visual or physical tools provided. Then do the same with student volunteers. Ask students to notice how the volunteer uses their body and voice when using the Peace Corner.

Remember, students can elect to use the Peace Corner themselves, or you can ask them to use it. Throughout those

first few days, direct students to use the Peace Corner, even if they are not dysregulated, as a means of practicing and normalizing the routine. Don't forget that you can use the Peace Corner yourself, too. It can be powerful for students to see you using the same strategies you've taught them to use.

A Peace Corner directly supports the CASEL competencies of self-awareness and self-management. It is powerful to provide students with a safe place to practice emotional regulation. This opportunity to take a break and reflect can go a long way for creating a culture of success in your classroom.

As we wrap up, let's take some time to pause and reflect on this session's topic by answering the following questions:

- **If you have used a Peace Corner before, what went well?**
- **What could be improved?**
- **Where could you place a Peace Corner in your classroom?**
- **How could a Peace Corner create a culture of success in your class?**

I hope you look forward to creating this space in your own classroom. Thank you for your time today as we discussed implementing Peace Corners as an SEL support for your students. We hope you will continue to engage in this Professional Learning module. Have a great day!