



Thank you for joining us!

Session 11: Brain Breaks Implementation
Trainer: Michelle Kelsey Mitchell

Getting Started:

1. If you have any questions, please type them into the Q&A box!
2. At the end of this session, when you leave the meeting, there will be a link that will pop-up asking you to complete the Session Quiz / Feedback Form.
3. You will receive a follow-up email within 24 hours of this session. That email will serve as your confirmation of attendance record for this session.

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Culture of Care Series: Session 11

Brain Breaks Implementation



Introductions

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Who We Are

Pure Edge, Inc. (PEI) is a private operating foundation that provides direct service to organizations through professional development & strategy thought partnership.

PEI also provides grants to national organizations that advance the work of whole child development & SEL.



Pure Power Curriculum

Grades K-5

- ❖ Unit 1 – The Power to Be Calm
- ❖ Unit 2 – Power to Tame Your Temper
- ❖ Unit 3 – Power to Laser Focus
- ❖ Unit 4 – Power to Grow and Stretch
- ❖ Unit 5 – Power to Lead with Kindness

Grades 6-12

- ❖ Unit 1 – Power to Shine
- ❖ Unit 2 – Power of Mindfulness
- ❖ Unit 3 – Power of Brain-Body Connection
- ❖ Unit 4 – Power of a Balanced Life
- ❖ Unit 5 – Tool Kit for a Balanced Life

We will always practice

1. Self-care 
2. Brain Breaks 
3. Modeling SEL Lesson Structure



Welcoming Activity

Who or what was it that motivated or inspired you to be in education?

Learning Objectives

- ❖ Illustrate the interconnectedness of SEL and self-care.
- ❖ Practice and implement Breathe, Move, and Rest Strategies for Self-awareness and Self-management.
- ❖ Identify CASEL competencies.
- ❖ Acquire skills to train colleagues in SEL with evidence-based curricula.

Session 11 – Learning Objectives

- ❖ Describe how and when to implement Brain Breaks.
- ❖ Develop a plan for Brain Break implementation that aligns with SEL competencies and objectives.

Guiding Question

When or how do I
implement Brain Breaks?



It is natural if your struggle to focus just makes you feel stressed and anxious about not completing your work on time.

Next time this happens, when you first feel your concentration drop, take a

 **Brain Break!**

Refresh and recharge yourself. Think of your mind as a muscle.



Engaging Activity: Anchor Breathing



1. Sit down and get comfortable.
2. Rest your hand on your chosen breathing space: tummy, chest or your nose.
3. Do your breathing and keep your attention on your breathing space.
4. When your attention wanders, gently bring it back to your breathing space.
5. Can you be mindful of your breathing for 5 breaths? For 1 minute?

How can taking a break from work or homework increase your concentration?

This idea might seem counterintuitive, but experts say it really works.

Consider this scenario: You've spent a few hours on the same project, and suddenly your attention starts to wander. Even though it's hard to keep your mind on the task, you stay at your desk, forcing yourself to keep going.





It's easy to become frustrated when you're trying to concentrate but just can't.

This can lead to stress and irritation, which tends to make focusing on what you need to do even more of a distant dream.

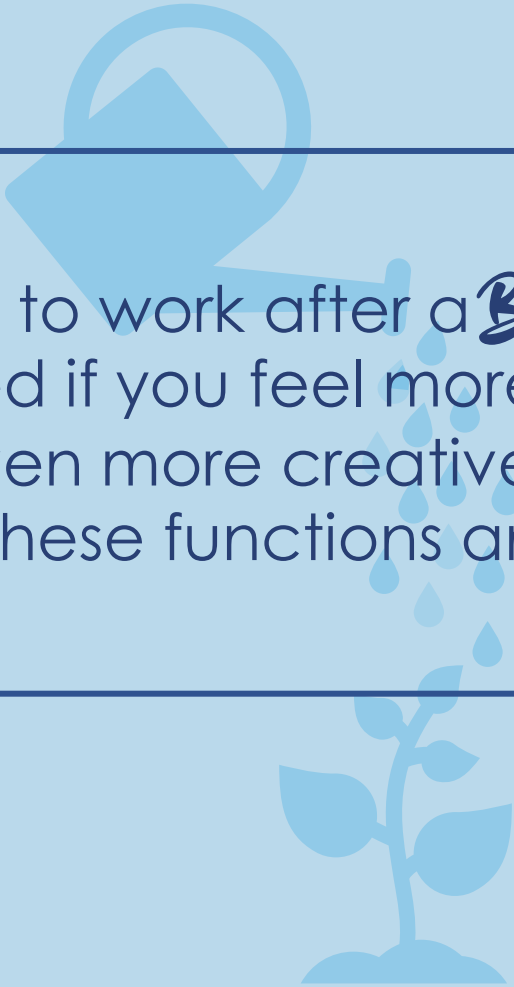


Engaging Activity: Taking in the Good

1. Think of one thing from the day that you feel good about, and be specific—for example, you listened, you were more creative, you lent a helping hand, or someone smiled at you, etc.
2. Hold on to that memory for the next 30 seconds. Remember it in as much detail as you can.
3. Allow the feeling associated with the memory to sink in your mind. Act as a sponge, absorbing the memory and the feeling together.



Power to Laser Focus



When you return to work after a **Brain Break**, don't be surprised if you feel more focused, motivated, or even more creative. **Brain Breaks** can help boost these functions and more.



Training Manual

Grades
K-5

Grades
3-5



Here are a few suggestions for when to implement Brain Breaks for grades 3-5. The suggested exercises are meant to support the educator in getting started with Brain Breaks. Once the learners are familiar, other exercises from the manual can be incorporated. Check our website, www.pureedgeinc.org, for video tutorials and access to the Brain Breaks manual.

Arrival	Mindful Minute offers learners a chance to check in with themselves at the start or end of the school day.
Refocus Between Lessons	Bring a little movement and breathing as a break to re-energize learners. Good options are Chair Cat/Cow, Chair Twist, and Statue.
Before Testing	Breathing exercises help relieve testing-related stress and put learners in a state of focus. Breathing Ball, Starfish, and Balloon Breathing are good ones to start with.
Lining Up	Use Mountain and Tree postures to help learners stay calm during transition to and from the classroom. Remember to focus on breathing!
Recess	Chair Sunrise Twist is a good way to help learners calm down if they have a lot of energy after they have played outside. Once they have settled down, try Even In-Even Out to build focus.
Create a Calming Center	Have Mind Jar and Breathing Ball available for learners to access in a quiet area. Have posture cards printed (available on www.pureedgeinc.org) for learners to practice postures on their own.
Departure	Attitude of Gratitude invites learners to remember something or someone that makes them feel thankful.





Training Manual

Grades
6-12

Grades
6-12



Here are a few suggestions for when to implement Brain Breaks for grades 6-12. The suggested exercises are meant to support the educator in getting started with Brain Breaks. Once the learners are familiar, other exercises from the manual can be incorporated. Check our website, www.pureedgeinc.org, for video tutorials and access to the Brain Breaks manual.

Arrival/ Homeroom

Mindful Minute offers learners a chance to check in with themselves at the start of the school day. The start of the day is also a great time to incorporate **Breathe** exercises such as **Anchor Breathing** or **Rest** exercises like **Mindful Listening**.

Refocus Between Classes

Use the breath to help settle students as they transition from one class to another. Good options to start with are **Breathing Ball**, **Even-In, Even-Out** or **Belly-Heart Breath**.

Break During Class

Bring a little movement and breathing as a break to re-energize learners during longer lessons. **Chair Cat/Cow**, **Chair Twist**, **Desk Dog**, **Tree** or **Eagle** work well.

Before Testing

Breathing exercises help relieve testing-related stress and put learners in a state of focus. Use exercises that learners are already familiar with. **Take Five**, **Belly Breathing**, and **Alternate Nostril Breathing** are simple and effective choices.

Afternoon Slump

To re-engage sluggish learners, some breath and movement can be helpful. **Chair Pose Twist** and **Forward Bend**, **Standing Half Moon**, and **Recharge Sequence** will get learners moving. Offering **Guided Rest** before movement when learners are tired can also re-energize them.

Departure

Taking in the Good and **One Minute Reflection** are **Rest** exercises designed to help learners reflect at the end of the day.





Arrival/Homeroom

This offers learners a chance to check in with themselves at the start of a school day.

Mindful Minute

or/and

Breathing Exercise

Anchor Breathing

Rest

Mindful Listing





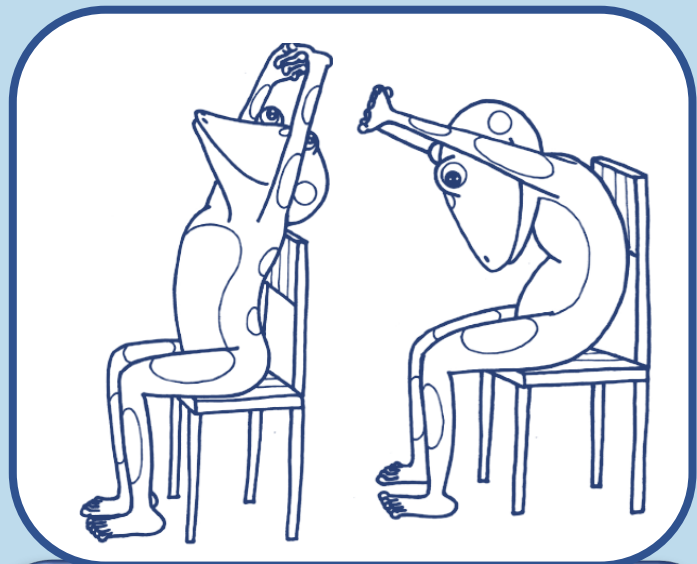
Refocus Between Lessons

Use the breath to help settle students as they transition from one class or lesson to another.

Breathing Ball
Even In – Even Out



Engaging Activity: Chair Cat/Cow



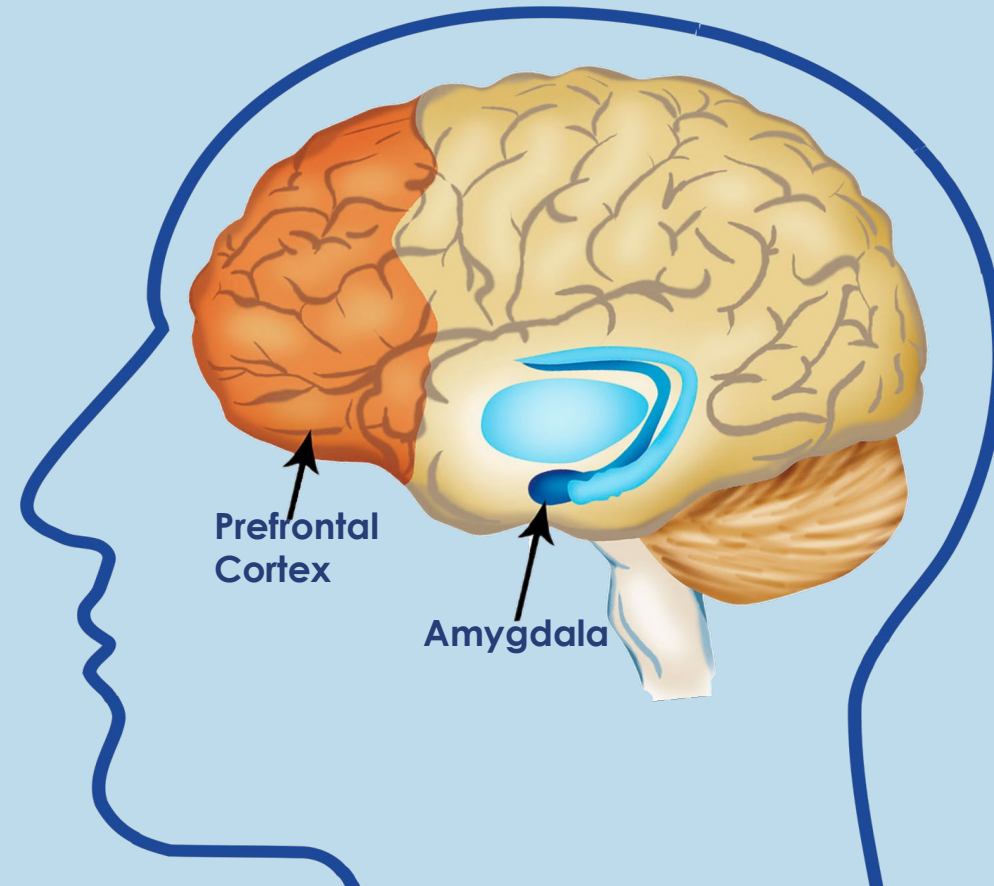
1. Sit in Seated Mountain with hands on knees.
2. As you inhale, stretch your arms overhead and interlace fingers. Reach the center of your chest up toward the ceiling, and lift your chin so that you are looking at the ceiling. (Cow)
3. As you exhale, in one movement bring your hands forward, round your spine and drop your chin toward your chest. (Cat)
4. Repeat for several breaths: inhale, arms up, gaze lifts, chest up. Exhale round the spine, chin tucks, hands forward.
5. Return to Seated Mountain.



**You can have young learners moo like a cow and meow like a cat. Just make sure they do a few rounds moving with the inhale and exhale first.*

**If on the floor, learners can come to hands and knees. Inhale, the belly drops down toward the floor and we look up toward the ceiling (Cow). Exhale, look at your belly button and round your spine (Cat). Repeat for several breaths.*

Neuroscience





Break During Class

Doing a little movement
and breathing as a
break can re-energize
learners.

Chair Cat/Cow
Chair Twist



Afternoon Slump

To re-engage sluggish learners, some breath and movement exercises can be helpful

Recharge Sequence
Mountain/Chair Strength
Sequence

Creating a Calming Center

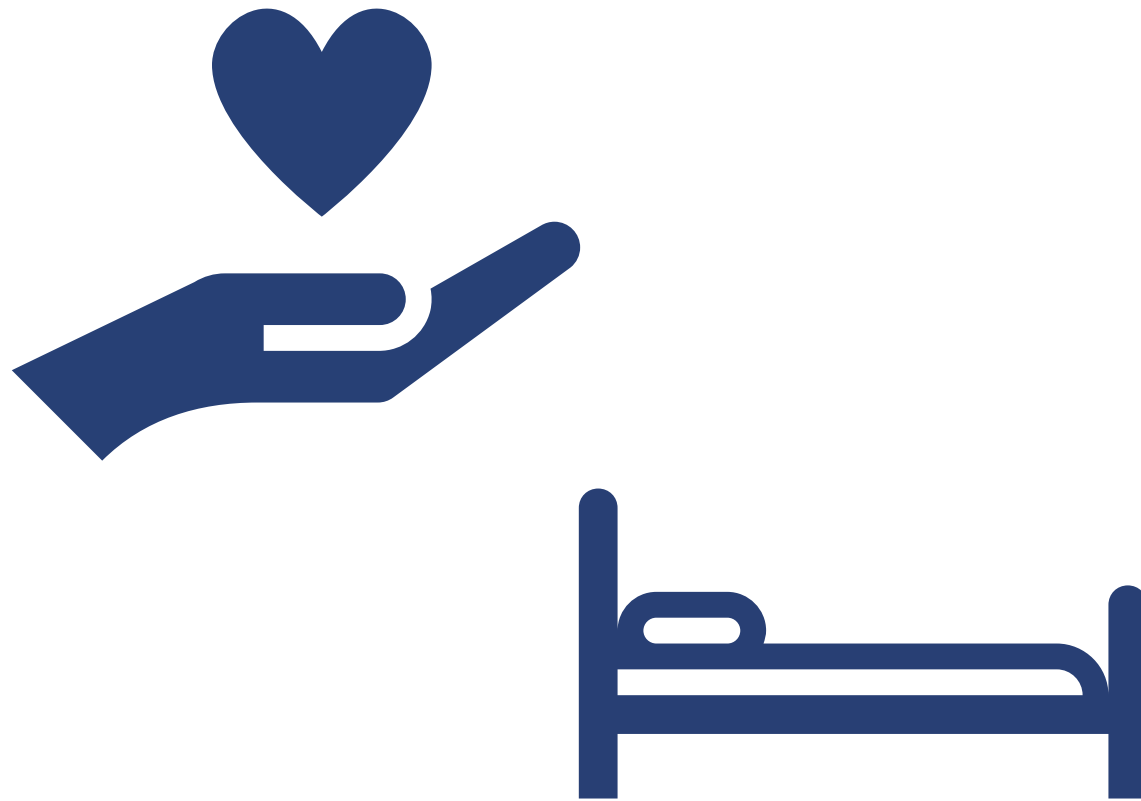


Have a **Mind Jar** or a **Breathing Ball** available for learners to access in a quiet area.



Before Testing

Breathing exercises help relieve testing-related stress and puts learners in a state of focus.



Departure

Rest is designed to help learners reflect at the end of the day.

Attitude of Gratitude
One Minute Reflection

When at School



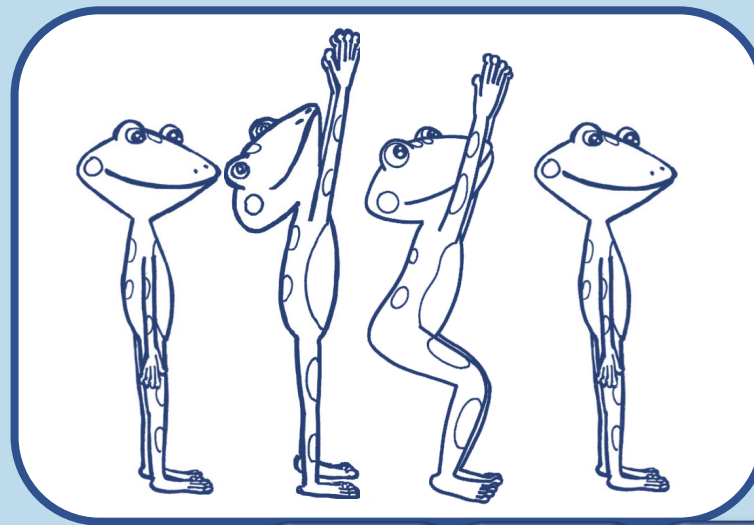
- **Lining Up:** allows learners to stay calm during transition to/from the classroom.
- **Recess:** Nice way for learners to calm down if they still have a lot of energy after they have played outside.



Engaging Activity: Mountain/Chair Strength Sequence

1. Begin in Mountain Pose.
2. Inhale, raise your arms overhead.
3. Exhale, bend your knees and sit back as though you were going to sit in an imaginary chair.
4. Hold for 3 breaths.
5. Inhale, come back to Mountain Pose.
6. Increase hold to 5 breaths as stamina increases.

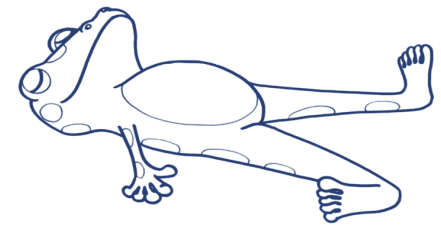
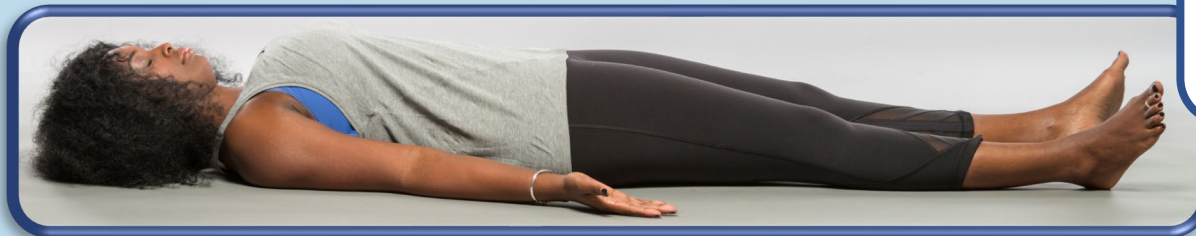
**This sequence can be used to strengthen the lower back and legs. It's also re-energizing after sitting in a chair for awhile.*





Engaging Activity: Guided Rest or Body Scan

1. Lie down on the floor on your back. Spread your feet apart. Turn your palms up to face the ceiling and close your eyes.
2. Put your attention on your forehead. Feel your forehead relax.
3. Put your attention on your eyes. Feel your eyes relax.
4. Put your attention on your cheeks and jaw. Feel your cheeks and jaw relax.
5. Put your attention on your neck. Feel your neck relax.
6. Put your attention on your shoulders. Feel your shoulders relax. (Repeat for arms, wrists, hands, fingers.)
7. Put your attention on your chest. Feel your chest relax.
8. Put your attention on your back. Feel where your back touches the floor (or the chair).
9. Put your attention on your belly. Notice how the breath moves the belly softly up and down.
10. Put your attention on your hips. Feel your hips relax. (Repeat for legs, knees, ankles, feet, toes.)
11. Bring your awareness to your breathing and notice where you feel the breath in your body. Maybe you notice it in your nostrils. Maybe you feel it in your chest. Maybe you feel it in your belly.
12. See if you can get really quiet. Maybe you will even feel your heart beating inside your body.
13. Let learners rest in silence for a few moments.
14. Ring chime.
15. Slowly start to wiggle your fingers and toes. Take a deep breath in and stretch your arms overhead. As you exhale, relax.
16. Open your eyes and slowly return to a seated position.
17. Notice how you are feeling.



Optimistic Closure

Of the 7 ways mentioned to implement Brain Breaks,
name 1 of the ways that you will start to use.

Please list this in the **CHAT box**

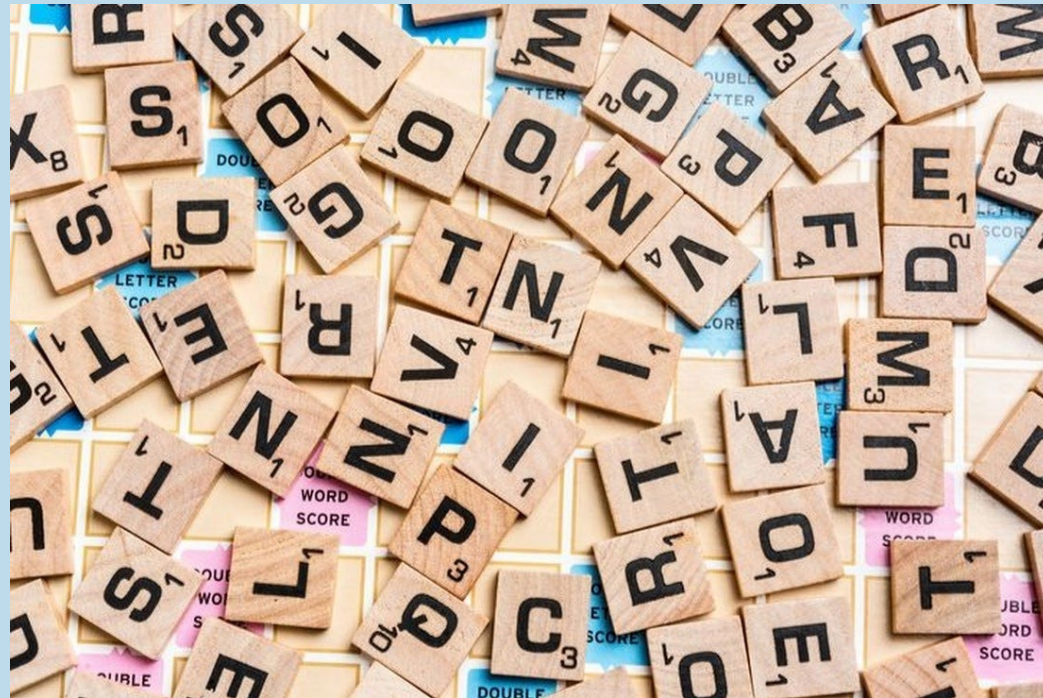
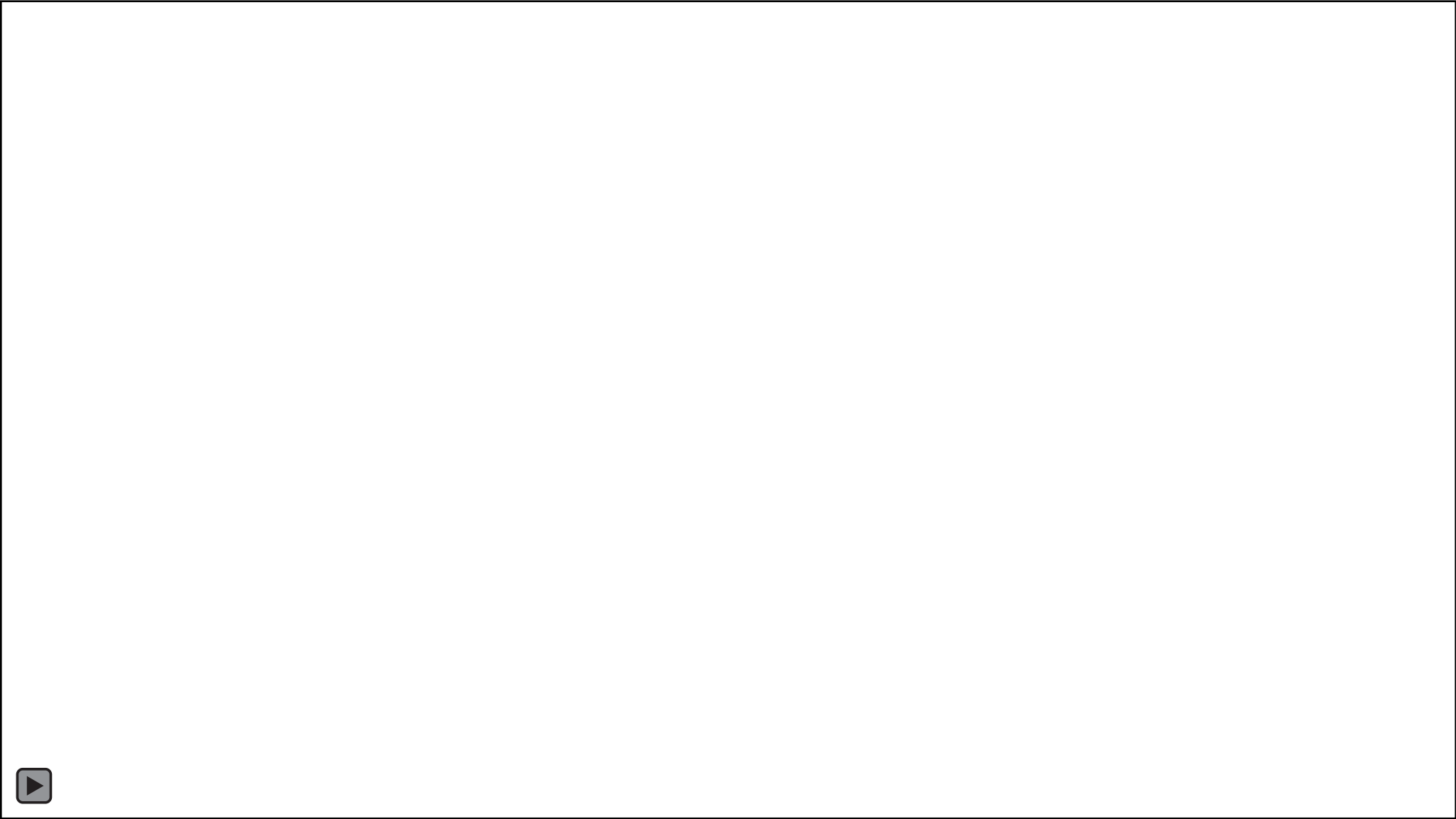


Photo: Juan Monino



Takeaways

- ❖ 7 ways to implement Brain Breaks throughout a lesson or school day.
- ❖ Breathe, Move, and Rest Brain Break Practices
- ❖ The 3 signature practices to integrate SEL into a lesson are: Welcoming Activity, Engaging Activity, and Optimistic Closure.

Brain Breaks Review



Breathe

- ❖ Anchor Breathing



Move

- ❖ Chair Cat/Cow
- ❖ Mountain/Chair Strength Sequence



Rest

- ❖ Taking in the Good
- ❖ Guided Rest or Body Scan

Homework

Self?

Plan out which Brain Break you will do **for yourself** before you start your lesson with your class.
Try to do the same one for a month's time to get into the habit.
Notice what happens for yourself.

Online Class?

Plan out which Brain Break you intend **to start and end class with**.
Also, try to do it for a month with your class.
Notice what happens for you and your students.

Together in Class?

After recess/lunch, which Brain Break would you do to help your class create a calming center?



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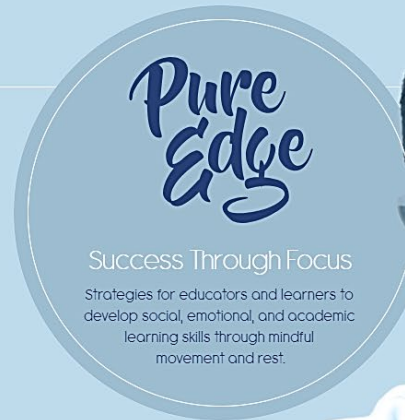
Evidence-Based Approach
Thoughtful Partnerships
Curriculum & Training



Online Curriculum

Log Out

+ MENU



●
breathe

●
move

●
rest





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