

# The Stages of the Learning Journey Overview

Stage	Goals	Tasks	Things to Try
Stage one	Cultivating a caring community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish your role as classroom leader.</li> <li>Provide a context for social, emotional, and academic learning.</li> <li>Develop shared agreements.</li> <li>Scaffold activities to build trust.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simple focusing activities</li> <li>Shared agreements</li> <li>Focused listening and pair-shares</li> <li>Wheel within a wheel activities</li> <li>Activities that help students get to know themselves, their peers, and the community</li> <li>Simple community circles</li> <li>Privacy agreement (rather than a confidentiality agreement)</li> </ul>
Stage two	Strengthening community and connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage student voices.</li> <li>Foster deeper connection with self, others, and the world.</li> <li>Skillfully navigate challenges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focusing activities</li> <li>Community circle or council</li> <li>Exploration of meaning, purpose, hopes, dreams, visions, and big questions</li> <li>Inclusion of more complex developmentally relevant themes (if appropriate)</li> <li>Collaborative and interactive student activities, such as World Café, Socratic dialogues, and projects revisiting purpose, context, and shared agreements, if needed</li> </ul>
Stage three	Creating positive closure and anchoring the learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create an intentional closure process.</li> <li>Anchor learning—make time for review and reflection.</li> <li>Normalize the full range of emotions.</li> <li>Take time for appreciation and gratitude.</li> <li>Address developmental transitions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Favorite focusing activities</li> <li>Appreciation circles</li> <li>Portfolio reviews</li> <li>Teaching about negative goodbyes (if appropriate)</li> <li>Student assessments of progress</li> <li>Memory books</li> <li>Student letters to self or to the upcoming class</li> <li>Family-child witness council</li> <li>Rites of passage ceremonies appropriate to your community context</li> </ul>