

**STAND
OUT**

SEPLA-CON 19

Monday 22nd July – Rosehill Racecourse
Tuesday 23rd July – Rydges Parramatta



Are my students In The Zone For Learning? Tools to help your students attain and maintain a focussed state for learning.

Natasha Sansoni¹, Elisha Obsioma

¹The Hills School

Biography:

Natasha is an Occupational therapist with 19 years experience working with people of all ages with disabilities.

She is currently an academic partner to Clarke Rd School and a consultant OT at The Hills school. Natasha believes in the power of viewing a student's behaviour through a variety of lenses; including a sensory lens and sees every behavioural response as a student's way of communicating a need.

Elisha has a Masters in special education and has over 4 years experience. she is passionate about empowering students to be lifelong learners through individualised learning and equal opportunity to meaningful and purposeful educational experiences.

In order to attend, concentrate, focus, engage and learn a student needs to be in a calm yet alert state.

A student's sense of safety, security, wellbeing, connection with teaching staff, accurate sensory information processing and a fine balance of brain chemistry amongst many other factors is required to attain and maintain this focussed state.

Students with disabilities experience challenges with self regulation and require support to achieve this focussed state.

Through a program called In The Zone for Learning; educators at The Hills School are building their knowledge and capacity in engineering the classroom environment, modifying teaching tools and practices, using multi-sensory teaching resources, incorporating the evidence regarding antecedent exercise reducing the incidence of challenging behaviours and collaborating with a team of professionals to support their students to focus, engage and learn according to their individual potential.

Every human being has an individual learning style - be it visual, auditory, tactile or kinetic. Our students with complex needs are no different.

Developing these lenses and tools to observe, interpret and trial strategies has proven to be greatly beneficial in supporting students to achieve a calm yet alert state - to be In the zone for learning, identify and use their strongest learning style, improve processing/response time, increase engagement and active participation.

In the zone for learning is an innovative program developed by Clarke Rd School and academic partners which consists of tutorials that bring together a large volume of evidence based practice including the trauma informed research by Dr. Bruce Perry and Dr. Daniel Siegel. It also includes an online checklist, guide to interpretation of student behavioural responses and strategies for supporting your student to be more focussed and engaged, all freely available on The Clarke Road School website.

This workshop will cover key concepts from In the Zone for learning in the context of real classroom situations and student stories.

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