

FIGURE 5.2 WAYS TO BUILD STUDENT CONFIDENCE

APPROACH	EXPLANATION
Set goals together	One of the most effective ways of building student confidence is making sure everyone is on the same page about learning goals. There is value in having clear learning intentions and success criteria. To build confidence, students and tutors need to understand and agree upon the goals for learning.
Encourage self-assessment	Providing students opportunities to improve learning by encouraging ownership of it is a huge step toward building student confidence. When students learn to self-assess, the role of the teacher becomes to validate and challenge rather than to decide if students have learned. When we do this, student understanding, ownership, enthusiasm for learning, and, of course, confidence increase.
Give useful feedback	Feedback should make someone feel good about where they are and get them excited about where they can go. This is the exact mindset that develops as we continue building our learners' confidence in the classroom.
Empty their heads	Students tend to lose confidence in themselves because they feel they're struggling more than they are. Every once in a while, we've got to get learners to unpack everything in their heads through review and open discussion to show them just how much they've accomplished.
Show that effort is normal	Nothing kills confidence more than for a student to think they're the only one in class that doesn't understand something. Focus on the effort that everyone is making. A good way of building student confidence in such a case is by having that struggling student pair up with one of the others who has aced the topic and get them to explain it.
Celebrate success	Any kind of success in learning, no matter how big or small, deserves to be acknowledged and celebrated. This might mean more to some students than to others, but it's still a great way of building student confidence.

SOURCE: Adapted from Crockett (2019).

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