

AUTISM NEWSLETTER

EXCERPTS FROM

“THE POWER OF SMALL WINS”

BY TERESA AMABILE AND STEVEN J. KRAMER

Thoughts from George Couros

“It’s not enough to value people, it matters that people feel valued.”

“We aren’t likely to be innovative in jobs we hate or in which we don’t feel valued. We also cannot work with excellence if we don’t take care of ourselves physically and mentally. Compassion fatigue is legitimate, and, yes, you might be able to get far with it, but it will catch up. **Understand that you and the relationships you create are the core of teaching and learning.**”

“No matter what you teach, your students aren’t likely to remember every lesson, but they will remember how you spoke and acted toward them and how you made them feel.”

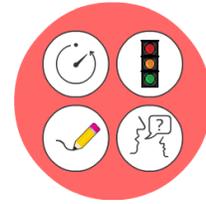
The Progress Principle : Of all the things that can boost emotions, motivations, and perceptions during a day, the single most important is thing is making progress in meaningful work. The more frequently people experience a sense of progress, the more likely they are to be productive. Everyday progress - even a small win - can make all the difference in how people feel and perform.

Research participants’ said that the most common event triggering a “best day” was any progress in the work by the individual, and the most common event triggering a “worst day” was a setback. Other triggers that frequently occurred on “best days” were *Catalysts* - actions that directly support work such as help from a person or group and *Nourishers* - events such as a show of respect or words of encouragement. Each has an opposite: *Inhibitors* - actions that fail to support or actively hinder work, and *Toxins* - discouraging or undermining events. Catalysts and inhibitors are directed at the work, nourishers and toxins are directed at the person.

For the Progress Principle to operate, the work must be meaningful to the person doing it. Creating connections between the learning journey and life increases the motivation to learn. Supporting progress with catalysts and nourishers increases the opportunities for frequent “best day” events to happen.

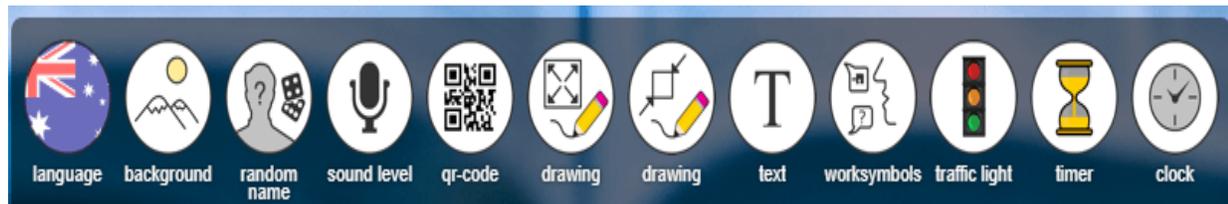
ClassroomScreen: A Useful Tool You Can Use Tomorrow!

Posted by Kathleen Morris



ClassroomScreen is a web tool that is a one-stop-shop with useful widgets you can use while teaching or while students are working. There are two main differences between the free version and the paid version. In the paid version (\$30.00 a year) you can save your screens and take advantage of the online poll which shows results in real time.

- **Language** – Choose to display text in a large range of languages
- **Background** – Customize your background with one of the images or GIFs provided. Or, you can upload or record your own background.
- **Random Name/Dice** – Enter the names of students and choose one at random. Or, roll one or more dice.
- **Sound Level** – Monitor classroom noise levels using the microphone on your device.
- **QR Code** – Enter a link and a QR code is automatically generated. Great when students have devices like iPads — they can come up to the board, scan the code and go straight to a site.
- **Drawing** – There are two sizes available where you can free draw. The larger sized canvas can replace the background if you wish.
- **Text** – A simple tool to write instructions, reminders, learning goals and so on.
- **Work Symbols** – Display one of four options: work together, ask a neighbor, whisper, and silence.
- **Traffic Light** – Display a red, amber, or green light to provide a visual reminder of when to move around, begin a task, pack up etc.
- **Timer** – Count up or count down, record “laps”, and more. You can customise the tone that rings when the time is up.



USING CLASSROOMSCREEN IS VERY STRAIGHTFORWARD

Go to <https://classroomscreen.com> (you might want to bookmark this site as you'll probably be using it regularly!). The creators say it works best in Google Chrome.

1. Your screen automatically loads. You will see a blank background and your widgets at the bottom.
2. Click on the widget you want to use and it will appear on the background ready for you to customize.

Press on the cross next to the widget on the icon bar at the bottom to remove it.