**Activities to Promote Creative Problem- Solving**

* Integrate play into your lesson – act it out
* Integrate sensory objects into your lessons
	+ Thinking putty
	+ Build or draw something
	+ Write a story
	+ Use personal story to relate to lesson
* Have students draw or write their own daily learning plan
	+ Identifying one goal for the day
	+ How they will complete it
	+ What they may need
* Brain mapping – story boards – with post it notes or drawings
* Create problem / solutions cards
* Name the problem trying to solve and write a newspaper headline and tagline
	+ Naming the who, what, when, where, and why
* Hold up 2 images that are unrelated – have students pair up and brainstorm how they could be related
* Bring in an item and have students brainstorm how the item could be reinvented or used
* Brain sketching – sketch out your idea, draw or write what is in your mind
* Play a song for 2 minutes – have students focus on an aspect of the song – a lyric or a phrase. What does it mean to them? How do they relate?
* Use SODAS:
	+ Situation – what is the situation or challenge
	+ Options – brainstorm all options
	+ Disadvantages – What are the disadvantages of all options
	+ Advantages – what are the advantages of all options
	+ Solution – what is the most beneficial solution

After each Activity; Ask debriefing questions:

1. What was helpful about this activity?

2. What was challenging?

3. How might you use this in the future?

4. What did you learn?

**Activities for Teaching Emotional Intelligence**

* Create a feelings / emotions chart as a class or on individual desks
	+ Have students create the images or take pictures
	+ Students can label (with Velcro or a symbol) how their feeling at that time onto their chart
* 1-minute journaling session – write or draw
* Create or use Mixed Emotions Cards
	+ Have students make their own emotion cards
	+ Share a time when they felt (mad, sad, scared)
		- Have students nonverbally demonstrate that feeling, with a partner guessing the feeling
* Create a feelings thermometer for each student
	+ Scale of 1-10 on their frustration or anger
	+ Validate feelings; Name your own feelings
* Do frequent check ins – body scan – how is their body feeling
* Have students create a 5 senses chart – noticing all of their senses when they are experiencing a certain feeling

**Activities to Create Connections Between Students / Teachers**

* Begin each Monday with an opportunity for kids to report on the weekend if you have a first period class (can be done in pairs).
* Have a community meeting each day
* Provide assignments that enable them to write or share about themselves and their lives
	+ In language classes, both English and foreign, this is really easy to integrate.
	+ For science teachers, have students write short essays or share on how they apply varied science-related technology or chemistry to their lives.
* Have students keep a gratitude journal or draw / write on things that bring them gratitude
* Have students share a 3-senstive narrative about what one topic or activity that enjoy
	+ Purpose is to tie subject matter to their personal lives, provides relevance to students.