

Pre-K/K-3 CLASS® Concepts for Virtual Learning

ENGAGEMENT



About Engagement

Whether you're teaching virtually or in person, making the most of each learning moment is always the goal. Engaging children requires you to make many plans and decisions based on your teaching knowledge. Ideally, you help children meet individual needs while still reaching goals. With strong relationships as a foundation, clear expectations and consistency will help children listen, participate, and learn throughout your virtual learning experience.



CLASS Focus



Behavior Management

Your ability to provide clear behavioral expectations and use effective methods to prevent and redirect misbehavior.



Productivity

Your management of routines and instructional time, as well as your preparation for activities with opportunities for children's involvement and learning.



Instructional Learning Formats

The ways you maximize children's interest, engagement, and ability to learn from lessons and activities.

Planning for Engagement in a Virtual Setting

Brainstorm how you will maximize engagement in your virtual classroom. Having clear goals and consistent routines is a strong place to start. Remember to adjust your expectations for the needs of each child—just as you would in person.



Aiming for Practicality

Using your expert teaching knowledge, develop realistic expectations for children's engagement in a virtual classroom. Then, clearly communicate your expectations to both children and adults.

Some Suggestions

- 1 Break learning activities into small chunks and take frequent breaks.
- 2 Adapt expectations for seating and participation.
- 3 Teach children to use technical features, such as breakout rooms and muting.

Your Idea(s)



Striving for Clarity

Supportive learning routines and clear communication about the expectations for each session will create a predictable environment where children can thrive instead of wondering, wandering, or worrying.

Some Suggestions

- 1 Incorporate routines as you begin and end each session.
- 2 Use visual cues to help children focus on your clear learning goals and activities.
- 3 Teach children ways to ask for help and participate.

Your Idea(s)



Planning for Variety

Using a variety of materials and methods in the virtual setting will help you engage children. Work toward a balance of predictability and novelty while regularly trying new facilitation strategies.

Some Suggestions

- 1 Encourage various ways of participating: speaking, gesturing, or drawing.
- 2 Include variety in learning (songs, chants, games).
- 3 Ensure all children have access to necessary materials.

Your Idea(s)



Out of Classroom Supports

Live sessions with children are only part of providing virtual instruction. Some children and families may need additional support. Children may not be able to participate online because of barriers to accessing technology. Providing alternative ways for children to receive instruction, complete work, and connect with you will help ensure equitable opportunities for learning and assessment. Make sure to communicate your expectations to adult caregivers. Letting them share information about their child can help you offer alternatives that meet individual needs. As always, working in collaboration with families supports children's success.

Before your virtual session begins ...

Now that you've brainstormed some ways to maximize engagement in your virtual classroom, choose an interaction goal to focus on during your next meeting with children.

Today, my engagement goal is:

- ☐ Use a routine song to start/end our learning time.
- ☐ Break learning into small chunks; take breaks often.
- ☐ Use visual, auditory, and motion modalities.
- ☐ Display visuals of our learning goals and schedule.
- ☐ Play a new learning game between activities.
- ☐ Encourage new ways to respond, like gesturing.

After your virtual session ...

How did it go? Were you able to engage children in the way you planned with the goal above? If so, check off the related observation to the right! Perhaps you used other strategies too! Check off anything else you noticed.

Today, I noticed that:

- ☐ Children are more familiar with our routines.
- ☐ My learning chunks lasted the right amount of time.
- ☐ Using different modalities kept children interested.
- ☐ Visual cues helped children know what to expect.
- ☐ Breaks for games added variety and interest.
- ☐ A quiet child responded in the new way I suggested.

Next time you meet with children ...

Now that you've taken a moment to reflect on this virtual teaching session, it's time to consider what you'll do next to continue engaging children through quality learning time. Based on your reflection, consider the statements below, and complete those that stand out to you.

- 1 Follow up on an idea we had by _____
- 2 Reinforce this routine: _____
- 3 Include learning in our break by _____
- 4 Include a new modality by _____
- 5 Do this again: _____
- 6 Do this instead: _____



Engagement Quick Tips!

Just snip and tape by your virtual workstation.



**Be proactive:
plan, notice,
redirect,
restate.**



**Practice
procedures.
Rehearse
routines.**



**Partner with
parents:
share clear
expectations.**



**What's my
backup plan?
Plan for
“what if ... ?”**



**Use visuals
for rules,
goals, and
expectations.**



**Active breaks
are learning
breaks!**



**See it! Show it!
Hear it! Say it!
Move it!**



**Involve the
body. Engage
the mind.**



**Offer
alternative
ways to
participate.**