

ELA Strategies for Grades K-3

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Instructional Strategies

Accountable Talk

Talking with other students about thoughts, ideas, and questions is essential to classroom learning. Accountable talk promotes and sustains learning and should hold learners to a high standard of using accurate and appropriate knowledge/vocabulary and adhering to higher-level thinking. You can encourage students to rephrase, paraphrase, or offer examples to illustrate their point.

Accountable talk responds to and further develops what others have said through relevant observations, ideas, opinions, or more information.

Accountable talk draws on evidence and follows the rules of reasoning.

You can offer students some effective sentence starters/stems such as:

I think this way because in the text the author said...

I know this because ...

I agree with... because ...

I disagree with... because ...

I want to know more about ...

I can prove this because ...

If I understand this correctly, it means ...

I am confused about... because ...

From my perspective ...

I can expand on that by adding ...

Read the [Accountable Talk Blog](#) for additional information.

Assessment Strategies

Four Corners

We know that movement in primary classrooms is necessary to engage students throughout the day. The Four Corners strategy encourages physical activity while measuring students' comprehension of a topic. Present a question to the class and then ask students move to the corner that aligns with their thinking. After meeting in the corner, allow a few minutes for students to discuss their answer choice and create a brief group response. Corners should be clearly labeled. You can create various types of questions for this activity. Multiple-choice questions allow your corners to be labeled A, B, C, and D. Opinion questions allow corners to be labeled strongly agree, agree, disagree, and strongly disagree.

Four Corners allows for student choice and exposure to various perspectives. In addition, it is easily prepared and implemented!

Ideas for using Four Corners...

before introducing new material to tap into prior knowledge

in the middle of a lesson to help students process information

after watching a film clip to gauge a reaction

after reading a short text to begin a discussion

when students are in need of movement

as a review after a unit of study

[The Teacher Toolkit](#)



Classroom / Time Management Strategies

Sequencing Activities

Sequencing activities will help manage your time, classroom behavior/organization, and reduce your stress level! Plan your activities so that easy and short tasks are interspersed with longer, demanding tasks. This strategy will improve engagement and learning as well as reduce disruptions and chaos in the classroom. Precede difficult activities with a few simple tasks to ease the transition to a new activity. In addition, schedule active learning methods such as conversation and collaboration before engaging students in active listening and paying attention to detail during a teacher-led presentation. Not only will this energize your students, but also energize you!

The resources listed are provided as options and examples.

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