

13 Teaching Strategies

13 strategies to help you accelerate student progress.

1. Know your students and develop their respect

Understand your students and their learning needs to develop respect. Memorize names and get to know your class. Understand what motivates them.

2. Appropriate use of summative and formative assessments

Summative assessment refers to an assessment that takes place after a block of work has been completed. Formative assessments happen day-to-day to gauge students' understanding of a current topic – they are assessments for learning.

3. Teach the vocabulary

Students need the appropriate words to create thoughts and sentences to confidently speak, reason and critically think about a given topic.

4. Explicit instruction

Use frequent questioning and guided practice to help students learn a topic. Demonstrate worked examples for students to use when completing shadow problems independently.

5. Effective questioning techniques

Open-ended questions such as “Are you sure?” and “How do you know?” encourage students to engage in grade-level-appropriate critical thinking. Questions can establish their confidence with lesson content and direct your lesson planning.

6. Deliberate practice

Deliberate practice involves breaking learning down into sub-skills, each deliberately practiced. There are 5 steps: isolate the skill, develop the skill, assess the skill, final performance and retrieval practice later on.

7. Differentiation

Differentiate learning to meet students' needs. Impactful differentiation strategies include: interleaving and phased learning, math manipulatives and formative assessment.

8. Recognition

Praise and recognition are motivators students are familiar with. Shifting the focus of praise from students being correct to giving full effort can be highly effective.

9. Metacognition

Teaching students how to learn, plan, monitor and self-evaluate their learning improves student motivation and encourages them to work harder in lessons.

10. Personalized learning

Students are more likely to engage with learning when it is targeted. As familiarity and rapport build throughout the year, it's easier to personalize activities and questions to individual children.

11. Collaborative learning

A popular technique to promote collaboration is through think-pair-share. Focus on well-structured tasks that promote talk and interaction between students.

12. Explicitly teach problem solving techniques

Once domain knowledge has been secured, teach students how to recognize and focus on the “deep structure” of problems to enable them to apply their knowledge more effectively.

13. Modeling and scaffolding

The “I do, We do, You do” method of scaffolding helps introduce new concepts without cognitive overload. It is flexible and more time can be spent on any given stage.