




Connecting with Young Children on Virtual Platforms

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Three Signature Practices for Daily Use



- WELCOMING RITUALS:** *Activities for Inclusion*
*carefully chosen & modeled *connected to the work day *debriefed
*safe and predictable *promote participation, listening, & a sense of belonging
- ENGAGING PRACTICES:** *“Brain Breaks” for Comprehension*
*information delivered in fun, different or active ways
*fosters relationships & collaboration *concept practice & integration
- OPTIMISTIC CLOSURE:** *Reflections & Looking Forward*
*carefully chosen & engaging *connected to content and one another *debriefed
*predictable *strengthen connections *reinforce the topic *create forward momentum

Welcoming Ritual Greeting

Always...

- Greet each child warmly, individually and by name-- regardless of when they arrive.
- If a child arrives late, or has been absent, remind them that they were missed... you may also want to check in later.

Welcoming Ritual Songs

**“It’s so good to see you, I really couldn’t wait,
can you clap your hands and count to eight...”**

“Here comes Juana, Juana, Juana... all day long”

“Where is thumbkin (or Josado)?...”

“Hello, hello, hello and how are you?...”

“We are the dinosaurs marching...”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vPrmY7labLA>



Welcoming Ritual Games

This or That (can use any gesture or movement)

- Raise your hand if you are choosing the first item (*this*).
- Give a thumbs up if you are choosing the other item (*that*).
- Be prepared to explain your choice.

Would you rather (this) take a walk, or (that) ride a bike?

Would you rather pet (this) a cat, or (that) a dog?

Would you rather (this) be able to fly like a bird or (that) climb the walls like a (that) lizard?



Welcoming Ritual Questions

- What is your favorite food? When do you get to eat it?
- What is your favorite book? Why?
- When was a time when you felt surprised (or proud, or scared, or curious)? What happened?
- When is a time that you helped someone else?
- When you feel mad or frustrated, how do you calm down?

Engaging Practice: Mix it Up

Ask the children to...

- **Act out something** from a animal/ character/ person
- **Draw something** from the lesson/ story
- **Find something in the house**, or outside that connects to the lesson/ story in some way...
- **Tell an adult, or sibling** what you just learned, **or ask if** they ever had a problem like the character in the book...
- Use a **Magic Bag** to introduce something new

Ask the children to... dance it out (gonoodle.com), sing it out, chant it out, use manipulatives or PUPPETS... mindfulness, do anything that is gross or small motor– just mix it up!



How are you **Feeling** ?



Frustrated
Frustrado



Embarrassed
Avergonzado



Sad
Triste



Mad
Enojado



Nervous
Nervioso



Happy
Alegre



Proud
Orgullosa



Scared
Asustado



Loved
Amado / querido



Lonely
Solitario



SEL and ELA



Prompt children to think about a character's facial expression, body language, tone of voice, and any problem the character is facing.

Ask children to find the feelings faces (reverse side) that match the character's-- or their own feelings.

Invite children to act out a character's facial expression, body language, tone of voice.

Stories offer a rich opportunity to talk with children about feelings!

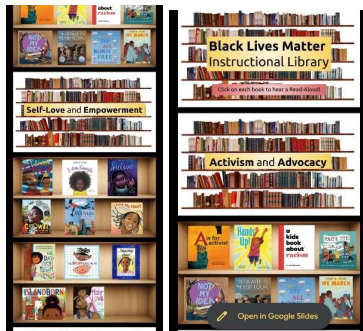
- How do you think ____ [character] is feeling?
 - Why do you think that ____ is feeling that way?
 - Is there anything about the way ____ looks or sounds that is a clue?
- Have you ever felt the way ____ does now?
 - What happened?
- When did ____'s feelings change? What happened?
 - Can you remember a time when you felt like ____ [e.g. scared] but later your feelings changed [e.g. to safe or calm]?
 - Turn to a friend and tell the story.



Engaging Practice: SEL and ELA

For ideas and support, visit the following websites:

- ✓ MEP M-TASC SEL and ELA
- ✓ getepic.com (you read, see others on Zoom)
- ✓ BLM Instructional Library (audio & pix)



BLM Instructional Library:
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/18pOK3roiwPQ9WF7D2wA0o7Ktr8KwAJeZfn-o6O8T_Y/mobilepresent?fbclid=IwAR0Vm3KwxsljwUd95LdWNEZmFP7hLOc-N-WTykItYMr0EixpIXOaNVG_c&slide=id.p

Epic! offers unlimited access to a library of thousands of great children's books



Family Account
For Home & Individual Use



Educator Account
FREE for all Verified Educators



Optimistic Closure: In Action

Roll and Reflect

Roll a large a die (virtually or in person) and reflect on your time together based on their roll (*different prompts*)

- 1: What surprised you today?
- 2: What do you want to learn more about?
- 3: What was the most fun today?
- 4: What made you curious today?
- 5: What was your favorite part of the day?
- 6: I wish my teacher knew that...



Optimistic Closure

Always...

- Say goodbye to each child warmly & by name.
- You can add a:
 - “teaser” about “coming attractions”
 - **Fact and Positive Function** (recall something and describe the positive function, eg. “Natania, I remember that when you told your sister which colors we mixed to make green, you came back and reminded me how to make pink! Wow, should we do that tomorrow?”)

Optimistic Closure: Song or Chant

Miss Rita... Miss Nancy... Miss Molly...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BSuWW-m2UzY>

- “Romper, Bomper, Stomper Boo,
tell me magic mirror, do. Tell me,
tell me, tell me today, did my
friend(s) have fun at play. I see...”



“Goodbye friends, goodbye friends, goodbye
friends, I’ll see you on _____ day.”

