

Lesson Planning Best Practices for Teachers

Best practices

- Be aware of cultural representation and cultural practices among your students and community. Use culturally relevant and place-based pictures, videos and information in your classroom and lessons.
- Use multiple modes of teaching to help students with all forms of learning styles.
 - **Visual:** Use pictures, visual elements, flowcharts, color-coded assignments, art work, create symbols to represent important concepts.
 - **Auditory:** Read passages out loud or have other students read them, repeat key concepts often, use videos, podcasts or songs in lessons, facilitate group discussions.
 - **Read/Write:** Use textbooks with written explanations and lists, encourage students to write, make cue cards for students, have students rewrite notes.
 - **Kinesthetic:** Use real-life examples, plan field trips, organize experiments for hands-on opportunities, integrate movement into learning activities.
- Provide translation for non-English speakers.
- Allow plenty of processing time for students rather than calling on the student who always raises their hand right away.
- Allow for a variety of ways for students to show their knowledge, i.e. verbal, written, artistic.

Tools available to help families access information

- **Choose the tools that work best for you and your students:** There are many tools available to help families access information on student learning and school activities. When using these tools be sure to aim for consistency within school-wide and/or district-wide tools that are already being used.
- **Support families in learning how to use the tools:** Provide opportunities for families to learn how to use and access these tools and platforms. Allowing families the opportunity to provide feedback on what is/isn't successful with these platforms/tools is an important part of collaboration.



How families support learning at home

There are a variety of ways the family can support learning at home. Sometimes families need support in establishing active roles in their child's learning or in connecting with the school community. It is important to know your families and their strengths, then tap into those strengths as you offer strategies to support learning at home.

Ask families to fill out the worksheet on the following page to learn more about them and use the information to inform lesson planning.



Examples of how the **school/teacher** can encourage learning at home:

- Create short welcome videos at the start of the school year.
- Create short videos explaining different learning topics (e.g., how to read with a child, how to choose appropriate books based on reading ability or how to play certain math games).
- Send a weekly newsletter outlining the learning activities for the week as well as ideas to help continue the activities at home.

Share examples of how the **family** can encourage learning at home:

- Incorporate learning activities into day-to-day activities (e.g. measurement lessons during cooking, baking or building).
- Ask your child to teach you an activity they learned.
- Play board games with your child.
- Encourage your child to name their feelings and emotions often.
- Use family conversation starters during dinner.
- Encourage your child to try new activities.
- Celebrate your child's accomplishments and achievements.

Worksheet: Gather Information About Your Family

Where did you go to school?

Who were your friends at school?

Where did you go to shop for food or clothes?

What did you do for fun and recreation?

Did your family ever move?

Who lived in your house with you as a child?

Who are important family members you grew up with? What did you learn from them?

Did you have any favorite teachers?

What was your first job? What was your favorite job?

What holidays were important to your family? Did you have any special foods or customs?
