

# TEACHING TIP SHEET

10 Tips on Becoming a More Effective Teacher

**1** Continually examine your instructional practices.



A reflective teacher is always improving!

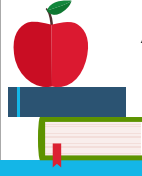
**2** Communicate a sense of urgency.

Cut out unproductive activities. Keep expectations high, monitor progress closely, and give students the supports they need before they fail.

**3** Communicate high expectations while recognizing student needs.

Communicate that you believe they can succeed, and differentiate instruction to meet individual needs.

**4** Keep increasing your knowledge.



Adopt a “lifelong learner” mindset. The more you know, the more your students will benefit.

**5** Recognize the positive intent behind challenging behavior, and *redirect* students to more appropriate ways to reach their goals.



**6** Focus on the 3 Cs—be a caring, creative, and courageous teacher.

**7** Tell your students why they should learn what you’re teaching.

Answer the question *what’s in it for me?*

**8** Consider doing the opposite of what you feel like doing.

When you feel like screaming at a noisy class, whisper—students will have to quiet down to hear what you’re saying.

**9** Engage your students in the classroom community

by giving them jobs and roles and providing them with multiple opportunities to interact with peers as they learn.



Adapted from *Fundamentals of Literacy Instruction and Assessment, 6-12*, edited by Martha Hougen.

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**10** Model what you want to see in your students:

kindness, respect, thoughtfulness, and enthusiasm for learning.