

# Helpful Tips



for new educators



SEPT-OCT

# Planning & Preparation

## Knowledge of Students

-Scan the QR Code to check out this resource on **developmental milestones by age group**. While aimed at parents, it is a great resource to understand what your students are going through.



## Designing Coherent Instruction

-Refer to pages 75-80 of The First Years Matter book that you received at orientation or at your intake. There are guides for:

- Organizing a Lesson Plan
- Questions About Planning
- Planning for Understanding
- Engaging Learners
- Pacing a Lesson
- Unit Planning



# Professional Responsibilities

## Reflecting

-**Keep notes** on what went well and what didn't on your lesson plans. **Dedicate time** to review the notes and make changes while everything is fresh in your mind.

## Record Keeping

-Tracking only the completion and not the accuracy of homework assignments **measures compliance, not learning**. Is the homework necessary?

## Communicating with Families

-**Keep families informed** about their student's learning objectives through various media. Consider "meeting them where they are" with social media apps that are district approved.

## Participating in a Professional Community

-Attend **after-school or weekend events** to see your students and their families through a different lens. Check with your NEST representative for recommended opportunities.



# Classroom Environment

## Culture for Learning

-Help your students understand the **importance of the content** they are learning. How/why is this relevant for them now and in the future?

-Provide opportunities for **students to take pride** in the work they do - make displays, spotlight exemplary work for the class, honor the efforts of students who may not normally be recognized.



## Rules and Procedures

-**Consistency is key** in addressing misbehaviors. If the rules were created by the class, involve the class in remediation of issues.

-Routines and procedures must be **taught and re-taught**, but not punished.

# Instruction

## Communicating With Students

-Provide opportunities and encouragement for students to try again when they have not shown mastery. Remind them they are not there, **YET**.

-Ask students to work with one another to confirm understanding and provide **additional explanations** of difficult content.

## Using Questioning and Discussion Techniques

-Consider the quality of your questions and the richness of discussion they will elicit. Scan the **QR Code for question stems** that require higher-order thinking.

## Using Assessment in Instruction

-Remember that assessments are just a snapshot of one moment of a child's learning journey. Use the data **with the students** to create goals and shape future learning experiences.



## Demonstrating Flexibility and Responsiveness

-Embrace your students' curiosity and **let "teachable moments" happen**, even if they are not on the day's lesson plan.

## Phases of first-year teachers' attitude toward teaching



"Being a new teacher is like trying to fly an airplane while building it."  
-Rick Smith

*We are here to help!*

**East Aurora District 131**

**Induction Program**

**Leaders:**

Steven Megazzini - Human Resources

[smegazzini@d131.org](mailto:smegazzini@d131.org)

Jen Dalrymple - Professional Learning

[jdalrymple@d131.org](mailto:jdalrymple@d131.org)