

Using Cues or Prompts



Cues or prompts are used to help teach, remind and reinforce students' ability to do a particular task or use set of skills.

Cues or prompts can be subtle, but should be easy to recognize and interpret for both staff and students.

When using cues or prompts:

- **embed cues** in your instructional routine; e.g., use a cue before starting or ending a lesson
- use **different types** of prompts based on the students' ability to remember expectations, focus on a task or follow a set of directions
- **reinforce** the students' attention to cues and prompts by commending students.

Thank you, Sophie, for putting your art supplies away when I pointed to the clock. Great job!

Physical Prompts (e.g., gestures)

- Physical prompts should be done in a friendly manner and delivered in a low-key, positive way. Examples include:
 - raising a hand
 - gesturing
 - a hand on the shoulder or desk
 - standing close
- Sometimes verbal and physical prompts may be combined; e.g., stand next to student, bend down and quietly remind him or her that it's time to begin cleaning up and getting ready for the next class.

Types of prompts:

Aural/Verbal Prompts

(e.g., sounds or spoken words and phrases)

New word!

OK class, let's start at the beginning and read it one more time.

You have five more minutes to work before you need to begin cleaning up for the next class.



Written Prompts (e.g., notes, signs)

- Post a **schedule** of daily activities or **instructions** of what to do during an activity
- Place **reminder cards** on students' desks. Use coloured cards with key messages or encourage students to design and make reminder cards. When needed, simply walk by and point to the reminders posted on their desks or lay the cards on their desks without comment. Remove the card when the behaviour has improved.

Activity Centre Rules

1. Listen to directions.
2. Use inside voices.
3. Stay with your group.
4. Wait your turn.
5. Ask your group members for help before asking the teacher.

Talk in a low voice.**Keep working.****Clear your desk.****Keep working.****Clear your desk.**