

Coach for active learning: *elementary school*

Being an active learner is important in any setting, but in the virtual learning environment it is critical to student success. Passively reading through lessons, watching tutorials and movies, and reading textbook assignments is not sufficient.

You can help your elementary school student develop an active learning mindset. Active learners understand that passively reading through lessons and textbook assignments, or casually viewing tutorials and movies is not sufficient.

- Students must:
 - Engage in learning by thinking deeply about concepts.
 - Self-monitor their understanding.
 - Get clarification if their understanding breaks down.

Use Lesson Resources

- The Lesson Guides (kindergarten-5th grade) provide directions that you can use to encourage your student to think deeply about lesson concepts.
- If you are working alongside your student, discuss the meaning of key vocabulary words together at the beginning of the lesson.
 - As you encounter those words throughout the lesson, ask your student to explain the meaning of the key words in the context of the lesson.
- Discuss lesson objectives with your student. Help your student make meaningful connections to ideas and concepts that your student already understands.

Encourage Self-Monitoring

- Effective readers monitor their own understanding as they read.
 - Encourage your student to periodically stop and think as you or your student reads lesson material. This can be done every few paragraphs, after each page, or after reading a paragraph with a lot of details.
 - Ask your student to summarize what was just read or answer who, what, where, when, why, how questions.
- In some lessons, students are instructed to read material or watch a recording and answer specific questions. The questions are followed by a “Show Answer” button.
 - Encourage your student to answer the question and discuss his or her response with you. Then select the link to read the answer.
 - Discuss the similarities and differences between your student’s answer and the answer that is provided.
 - Coach your student to answer questions and check his or her response as a standard practice.

continued

- Math lessons provide opportunities to check for understanding throughout the lesson. After your student completes independent work, prompt your student to compare his or her answer to the correct answer.
 - If a mistake is made, positively communicate that he or she has an opportunity to learn.
 - Let your student find the mistake and rework the problem independently as much as possible.
- Worksheets, section review questions, and concept maps are found throughout lessons with completed versions provided at the end of many lessons.
 - Use these resources as opportunities for your student to check for understanding and as study guides in preparation for a quiz or test.
- Portfolio assessments include grading rubrics for students to use prior to drafting the assessment and submitting it to the Drop Box.
 - Use the grading rubric alongside your student to check the assessment, determine the quality of the work, and then decide if the portfolio should be submitted or revised.
 - Your student should take the lead in evaluating and revising his or her own work as much as possible before submitting it to a teacher.

Get Clarification

- If your student does not understand a new concept, work alongside him or her and:
 - Reread the content or repeat parts of the lesson leading up to the new concept.
 - Explore the topic further using another instructional tool, such as Khan Academy, found in Connexus®.
 - Ask open ended questions to encourage your student to think through the concept or problem.
 - Contact the teacher.

