Engaging Students:
## Opportunities to Respond (OTR) & Positive Feedback

Best Practices are those that are known to provide the highest probabilities for success. For teachers, best practices maximize the probability of student success, and while nothing is a sure thing, some strategies work better than others.

Best practices are identified through empirical research. They are practices shown to have a large positive effect in comparison to the alternatives. Consistently, the data confirms that for students' positive interactions with adults, and engagement during instruction, are perhaps the most important predictors of student success.

These two strategies create:
* Decreased rates of disruption and off-task behaviors.
* Increased active attention to lesson.

Positive Feedback is an essential component of effective instruction and is associated with student academic and social success. Positive Feedback simply means that the teacher has clearly indicated to the student(s) that their behavior is appropriate/correct.
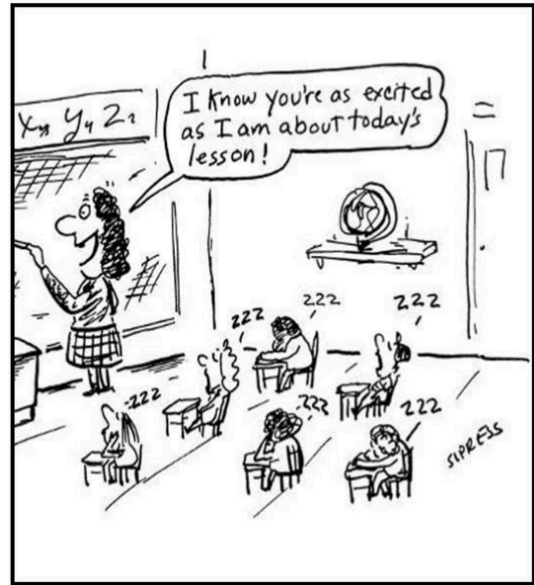
Types of Positive Feedback include verbal, tangible, and group attention. During instruction, teachers can provide high rates of verbal positive feedback without interrupting the lesson. Effective positive feedback is delivered immediately after a behavior, with specificity, and in a genuine manner.

Here are some examples:
* Thanks for being in your seats and ready.
* That's the right way to _____, thanks.
* I'm impressed by how you've _____.
* You are really doing a good job with _____.

OTRs - Engagement is a Teacher Behavior:
Teachers can enhance student engagement during instruction with specific behaviors that are known to keep students actively thinking and learning. For many students, this will not happen without careful planning and delivery by the teacher.

By providing opportunities for students to respond during instruction teachers can facilitate student engagement, we call these **OTRs**. Any teacher behavior that makes the student think about the curricular content and respond in some way is an OTR. We've provided several examples of OTRs on the back of this page.

Engaging Students:
Opportunities to Respond (OTR) Examples

Opportunities to Respond - OTRs
- An interaction between a teacher's academic prompt (i.e., verbal, visual, or written) and student(s) verbal, written, or gestural responses.
- We see significant improvement in student engagement and decreases in disruptions when teachers use OTRs at a rate of at least 3 per minute during explicit instruction

Verbal Engagement:
- ***Whip Around***
  "Name one of the 44 Presidents of the United States of America – think (pause 5 sec.) – we'll start with the front row"
- ***Choral Responding Examples***
  What type of OTR are we using? (pause 5 sec.) *Everyone.*
  What is the capital of Oregon? (pause 5 sec.) *Everyone.*

Non-Verbal Engagement:
- ***Thumps Up-Down***
  - *Have you used or seen hand signals during instruction?*
- ***Fist-to-five***
  - *What is your level of understanding of OTRs?*
- ***Fingers as Number***
  - *What is the recommended OTR per minute?*
- ***Response Cards***
  Using your *true or false* card, answer the following question:
    - **Louisville is the largest city in the Commonwealth of Kentucky**
  Using your multiple-choice cards, answer the following question:
    - **Louisville was founded in what year?**
      A: 1792, **B: 1800**, **C: 1778**, **D: 1775**, **E: Don't Know**
  Using your grid and dry erase marker, draw as many arrays as you can for the number 6.
  Using the back side of the card, **list the factors of the number 6.**
- ***Written- Stop & Jot***
  - Jot down a brief definition of one strategy that we have talked about.

Partner and Teaming Engagement:
- ***Cued Retell***
  Get into partners (1 & 2) **1s:** What are the 4 steps of the individual response routine, **2s:** Prompt when necessary
    1. Ask a question/give prompt   3. Wait time for 3-5 seconds
    2. Give Response cue   4. Give feedback on responses
- ***Turn & Talk***
  - Which response methods would be the <u>easiest</u> to incorporate into a lesson?

Engaging Students with Positive Feedback
Motivational Interviewing Skills for Coaches (MISC)