



Your Bag of Tricks

In this course, we've learned some ways you can deescalate student misbehavior. Here is a reminder of how to best implement each trick. You can save this sheet to use as a daily reminder, or you can discuss this sheet with a mentor to reflect on which ones have worked well for you and which need tweaking.

Trick #1: Ignore

Tip: Ignore truly means ignore. You have to pretend like whatever happened didn't happen. If their behavior doesn't throw you then it is less likely to throw off the rest of the class.

Trick #2: Proximity

Tip: Proximity works best if you are already up and moving around, such as during whole group instruction, activity facilitation, or when students are doing individual work. Do not force proximity if it isn't possible during the moment, such as if you are sitting and teaching a small group lesson.

Trick #3: Include the Student

Tip: This trick can take some practice and finesse but if done correctly, it can be so helpful! The first tip is to give the student a warning that a question or interaction with you is coming their way. This inclusion cannot feel like a "gotcha" moment. Second, you have to bring them back into the fold by making them feel successful or helpful. You can re-engage them by asking them to do a task that you know they can do, or by asking them a question you are positive they can answer correctly.

Trick #4: Pointing Out Positive Behaviors

Tip: An important part of this trick is remembering that your comments must be *genuine*. You cannot thank students for doing what you asked with the motivation of getting them to repeat the action. Kids are intuitive, and just like adults, they do not like to be thanked by someone with an ulterior motive. Also, the better relationship you have with a student, the more effective this strategy will be.

Trick #5: Gentle Redirection

Tip: Notice you must say this as genuinely as you possibly can. As frustrated as you may feel in these moments, you must make the student feel like you are truly wanting to help them out, not punishing them for "messing around." This helps solve the problem without creating a power-struggle or making a scene that involves the rest of the class.

Trick #6: Private Conversation

Tip: Bringing the student back into the mix of the functioning classroom is so important. Do not ostracize or blame the student as that will more than likely cause them to further disengage from class. Instead, aim to validate their feelings while also steering them back to the lesson or activity.