

Equipping Moms for Home Schooling

Lesson 2

(Classroom Management, E.D.I. and Writing Strategies)

Materials: Peanut butter, bread, knife, writer's notebook, white boards, projector and If You Give a Mouse a Cookie.

Theme: Cookie discipline. Stay focused and be consistent otherwise you may never get anything done. Let your yes be yes and your no be no. Discipline will make your teaching harder or easier. It is all up to you. Reward and discipline throughout the day to teach the children consequences for their actions.

A child will crawl when they're ready, walk when they're ready, talk when they're ready, read when they're ready, and write when they're ready. Be patient! Every child will learn differently and at different levels.

1. What is E.D.I. (Explicit Direct Instruction)? - E.D.I. is a teacher-centered instructional approach to teaching basic and isolated skills.

The teacher breaks down skills into small digestible chunks. It is a step by step format that allows the students to master each step of a skill. Immediate feedback is given to the students throughout E.D.I. Continuous modeling by the teacher is required at first, followed by more limited involvement, slowly fading until the students master the desired skill. (Every reference to teaching from this point on will be an E.D.I. lesson.)

2. Breaking Down a Skill into Small Digestible Chunks - E.D.I. is a step by step process that builds on the previous material taught. Ex: Make a peanut butter sandwich. Tell me how I would make a peanut butter sandwich?

3. Let Students See/Hear You Think/Work Through the Process - Talk the students through your problem solving process. This will allow the students to see how you came to the conclusion and what methods you used to solve the problem. Ex: First, second, then, next, finally.

4. Teacher Modeling Multiple Examples - Model several step by step problem solving techniques and examples of the skill that you are teaching.

5. Checking for Understanding - Throughout the lesson check to see if the students are tracking with you and comprehending the skills you are teaching. You can use “Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down” and white boards to check for understanding. Ex: White boards and expanded notation.

6. Independent Practice - This is the independent work the students complete that reflect the goal set in the lesson. Don't just allow students to practice a new skill once or twice. Allow the students to practice a lot; this will solidify mastery of the skills you have taught the students. Ex: White boards and expanded notation.

7. Ask Meaningful Questions - Ask questions that make the students think about the what, why, and how of the lesson or skills. Please don't ask yes and no questions only. Ask questions that require a higher level of thinking. Ex: Application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation questions.

8. Tell Them Why - This can help give the students an understanding of the reasoning behind the skill or concept. Ex: We place an apostrophe above the missing letter(s) in a contraction. Can + not = can't, will + not = won't, you + are = you're etc. Ex: Teaching Greek U-Tube.

9. Writer's Workshop - A creative strategy that teaches the love of writing.

10. One Goal Only - Pick one goal to set, explain, and model for the students. Ex: periods, capital letters, adjectives, commas, beautiful language, show not tell, writerly voice, metaphor, simile, action words, proper nouns, memoir, etc.

11. Writer's Notebook - Each student is given a writer's notebook. Students design and decorate their writer's notebooks. The students write and exercise their new concepts in their writer's notebooks. “Seeds” (ideas) are placed in the back of the writer's notebook to build a story around later.

12. Mini Lessons - This is the first part of the writer's workshop lesson. The teacher gives a seven to ten minute mini lesson to expose a concept or strategy of good writing. The teacher only focuses on that one goal throughout the lesson.

13. Examples of Good Writing - The teacher presents examples of good writing throughout the themes of the lesson. Find good books at the library or local bookstores.

14. Independent Writing - This is a twenty five to forty minute period when the students practice new skills in their writing.

15. Teacher Writer Communication - The teacher goes around to the students and talks to them about their writing. The teacher asks meaningful questions. They listen to the student read their writing. They help the students become self-correctors. The teacher gives students specific feed back.

16. Share Time - Allow the students to share their work with other people by reading their work out loud. Give specific feedback to the students after they read their writing.

17. Specific Praise - Be very specific when giving praise to the students.

18. How to Teach Multiple Learning Levels Simultaneously- First, have the older or advanced kids work independently on a project or subject that will take them an extended amount of time to complete. Next, work closely with the child that needs specific help. Once the second child is ready for independent practice, go and work with the first child again.

This technique is like juggling. Send the first ball (child) high into the air. Now you have time to give the other children your time and attention. While one child is quietly completing their independent practice the other child will receive one on one time with you.

Set your day up to have enough time to give to each child. This will require assessing the levels of their abilities in their subjects, daily planning and good time management. Take the extra time to make a daily plan of attack. You won't regret it.

19. Work Stations- Set up several stations around the house where kids can move from one subject to the next with little supervision from you. You want to cultivate the "Gradual Release of Responsibility." You want to help the children become self starters and independent workers.