

General Tips for Online Learning

Keep it Simple: Don't underestimate the power of the "basic" tech tools. Tools like word processing documents and slide shows can provide many engaging opportunities for learning with thoughtful strategy.

Create/Use a Schedule: Online learning can become chaotic and sporadic without structure. Providing students with a (proposed) schedule can help mitigate these challenges. Check out [existing schedule templates](#) for ideas.

Set Expectations: Learner expectations should be set; these expectations should clearly define the required communication, participation, and engagement in the online learning.

Take it Slow: Be cautious of trying too many things too quickly. Consider the cognitive load of your learners and try to design learning experiences to match.

Consider the Medium: The use of technology has an impact on the entire learning and teaching process. To design effective online learning experiences, the medium of technology must be considered.

Communicate with Learners: Virtual communication is one of the most significantly different parts of online teaching and learning. Ensure clarity and communicate with your learners often. Consider age and skill level appropriate mediums to connect with learners.

Create/Present Clear and Concise Learning Content: When presenting or creating learning content, ensure that you follow a process and are as concise as possible with any instructions, descriptions, etc. The more "noise" that can be removed from a learning experience, the easier it will be for the learner to navigate.

Bring in the "Real" World: Connect your learners with the world. Host a class with another classroom across the state, nation, or even the world, set up virtual pen pals, or have your students engage in a virtual job shadow or college tour.

Reevaluate Often: One of the best ways to ensure that online instruction is effective is to reevaluate often. Check in with your learners; ask them if things are going well. Consider offering an exit survey for lessons, activities, and new ideas.

Don't Forget the Fun: It's easy to get bogged down in the technology aspects of online learning. Don't forget to have fun with your learners. Use (age appropriate) GIFs, memes, images, and videos to create a fun, warm, and welcoming atmosphere.