

# Engagement Conference

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## UNDERSTAND (Why?)

An engagement conference takes place to help students learn, practice, and build learning behaviors that will help them to be successful during whole-group lessons, as well as independent and collaborative learning time. It's designed to help students identify and understand what's keeping them from being successful, while setting small, attainable goals to help them grow stamina and gain independence. As the class is building engagement with independent and collaborative learning, the teacher pays attention to student engagement behaviors, taking note of who could benefit from more guidance.

## PREPARE (Students)

I want to take a few minutes to revisit a behavior of engagement that I think could really help you to focus and learn more. I'll share this behavior and then we'll practice it and set a goal for you to work on it independently.

## TEACH (Explicitly)

An engagement conference helps students with any behaviors that effect their engagement. The following is an example. Each engagement conference will sound different based on the individual child's needs.

**Teacher:** I'm going to talk to you for a moment about staying in one spot during our work time. I've noticed you have been moving around a lot, and one of our behaviors is to stay in one spot so we can be engaged. Can you tell me what makes you want to move around?

**Student:** I just get bored sitting in one place, and sometimes I want to see what my friends are doing.

**Teacher:** I understand. It's natural to feel like moving around sometimes. When you stay in one spot, it helps you focus better and get your work done more quickly. Let's think of some ways to make it easier for you to stay in your spot. Maybe we can set up a little area with everything you need right there. How does that sound?

**Student:** Okay.

**Teacher:** How about we make a plan: you will stay in your spot while you're completing your "must-do" work, and when you finish then you may choose your "may-do" work like reading a book or working on one of our games on the tablet. All of the things you need are right here within reach. Does that sound like a good plan?

**Student:** Yes, I like that.

**Teacher:** Great! Let's try it today. I'll check in with you later to see how it's going. Remember, staying in one spot helps you do your best work, and I'm here to help you with that. If you need anything or feel like moving, just let me know, and we can find a solution together.

**Student:** Okay, I'll try my best.

**Teacher:** I know you can do it. I'll meet back with you at the end of the day today to see how you did.

By having this kind of conversation, the teacher can address the student's specific needs and concerns while reinforcing the importance of staying in one spot. This approach also allows for collaborative problem solving and sets clear expectations and strategies to support the student's engagement behavior.

## SUPPORT (Pivots)

- Plan for actionable follow-up steps after the conference to ensure that discussions and agreements translate into tangible actions. This may include creating action plans, setting deadlines for specific tasks, or scheduling follow-up meetings to monitor progress and make necessary adjustments.