

*Elementary
Edition!*



CHAMPS

Classroom Management

Tip of the Week

Managing Independent Work Periods

When students are asked to work without direct teacher supervision, opportunity for misbehavior and/or time off-task increases. Consider the following suggestions to help keep students on-task and actively engaged in their work.

- Ensure that students can successfully complete the assignment alone.
- Develop and model a clear example of what student behavior should look and sound like during the independent work time.
- Provide initial support by beginning independent assignments with guided practice.
- Modify assignments to meet the needs of lower performing students.
- Set specific time limits (use timers).
- Set specific “help” expectations. (i.e. Can students help each other? Should they circle and skip? Use available resources?)
- Provide exemplars and rubrics for students to self-asses their work.
- Provide an activity or challenge to students who may finish early.
- Keep independent work periods brief, especially near the end of the day.
- Spontaneously walk between the desks to monitor students’ progress.
- Narrate (speak aloud) the positive, on-task behavior you observe.
- Provide feedback (as often/quickly as possible) to individual students and the class.

