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Strategies for Increasing & Sustaining Student Engagement

Presented by Denise White

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Strategies for Increasing and Sustaining Student Engagement

Presented by Denise White
Highly Effective Teaching Associate

I. Simultaneous Response Strategies

- **Purpose:** When the teacher poses a question, all students have the opportunity to think about and respond to the question at the same time.
- **Structure:**
 1. Question
 2. Wait/Give think time
 3. Implement simultaneous response technique
 4. One or two students respond orally or in unison
 5. Teacher expands, extends, and clarifies
- **Strategies:**
 1. **Pair-Shares:** Think, Write, Draw
 2. **Sit Down/Stand Up; Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down:** Effective with yes/no, true/false, and agree/disagree questions.
 3. **White Boards:** Think, write, show.
 4. **Tell Your Hand; Tell the Ceiling:** Most effective with primary students answering questions with a single or brief response.
 5. **Sign or Signal:** Students show the LIFESKILL sign when answering a LIFESKILL question.
 6. **Show Me the Number:** Assign numbers to vocabulary or spelling words, places on a map, etc. Ask a question or give a clue and ask students to show you the number of the correct answer.
 7. **A, B, C, D:** Each student has four cards marked A, B, C, and D. Teacher asks a question, gives four choices and asks students to hold up the correct card. (Great for informal assessment and/or test preparation.)

II. Student Engagement Strategies

- **Purpose:** When you see students' attention dropping off, stop and insert a student engagement strategy.
- **Strategies:**
 1. **Whip Around-Pass Around:** Teacher poses a question with a brief answer. Students think about the answer and each and each

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student quickly gives his/her answer individually as responses “whip around” the room.

2. **Post the Answer:** Write three questions or problems from the lesson on the board. Students choose one and write their response/answer on a post-it note and post on board. (Segue back into lesson using these responses.)
3. **Use Role Playing:** Use students “physically” in the lesson.
4. **Appoint Chalkboard Writers:** One student from each Learning Club takes notes on board while you teach. Students who are seated write notes written by their Learning Club member. (Chalkboard writers can be alternated throughout lesson.)
5. **Use FAQs:** Write several questions that can springboard the delivery of your content. Distribute them to students and allow time for them to discuss with a partner or Learning Club.
6. **Utilize Voting:** Ask a question about a lesson and ask for thumbs up if they agree, thumbs down if they disagree; ask for fist to five on how much they like or dislike a story, etc. (Segue back into lesson using student opinions.)

