



TIPS FOR TEACHERS

Tips for Teachers is a regular department that presents practical teaching suggestions in the areas of reading, mathematics, written language, content areas, organizational skills, and social skills. Please submit your tip to Dr. Victoria P. Day, Tips for Teachers Column Editor, 62 Mulcahy Dr., East Hartford, CT 06118.—VPD

39 Alternatives to "No"

1. Let's try it this other way.
2. Let's see why you're having trouble.
3. I know it's hard, but you can get it.
4. You've almost got it right.
5. Well, that's just a little bit off.
6. You need to try that again.
7. Well, not quite, but . . .
8. Wow! You almost hit the nail on the head.
9. Wow! You almost got on base that time.
10. You need to sit down now!
11. You need to listen now!
12. Close, but not quite.
13. That's really close! Try again.
14. Oops!
15. Let me give you a little hint.
16. Here's a little trick I learned.
17. I think this might be a better way.
18. Now, let's look at that a little closer.
19. Now, let's think about that again.
20. Now, let's just take another look at that.
21. Remember how we did it last time?
22. Remember what comes after this step?

23. Well, almost! You need to try again.
24. Not quite but you're sooooo close!
25. Does that sound right to you?
26. Does that look right to you?
27. Let's try again.
28. Let's give it another try.
29. How about this way?
30. Aha! You've almost got it now.
31. Yes, but you need to take another look.
32. Why not try it this way?
33. Hold everything! We've almost got it.
34. Let's just look at that together!
35. Hey! You're doing great, but . . .
36. C'mon now—are you sure absolutely positively?
37. Let's work through this again and see.
38. That's pretty good, but . . .
39. Let's try this other way and see what happens!

CLARENE SAARNI
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Teaching At-Risk Students

Rule of Thumb: Instead of telling your students something, show them [overhead, ditto, charts, etc.]

Rules: Have a few good ones, and stick to them. Involve students in creating the rules.

Consistency: Be consistent. Consistency creates order and security.

Procedures: Keep them simple. Use the same routines over and over. You will build success this way.

Warm-Up Activity: On a daily basis, provide a brief lesson or short problem that students can do independently and with a high rate of success. Give everyone a chance to build his or her self-confidence.

Directions: Give one direction at a time. Never give four or five steps at a time orally.

Teaching Concepts: Present one concept at a time in as many different ways as you can during the class period.

Worksheets: Simplify worksheets; don't crowd too much on one sheet.

Grades: Give students back a graded paper every day, whenever possible.

Motivation: Relate what you are teaching to the real world of students. Draw on their experiences when you present a unit.

Reinforcement: Display student's work. Send notes home to parents about progress. Let students know they are valued. Relate to them as individuals.

Testing: Use a variety of ways to assess progress, such as through projects, class participation, and so forth.

Learning Styles: Help students become aware of their own learning styles and individual strengths and weaknesses.

Expectations: Keep your expectations high.

Hang in there! You could be the one who makes the difference.

M. DIANE LANGEIER
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Introducing a New Book

Before introducing a new book to children in my primary class, I play "Wheel of Fortune" with them. They guess what letters will be in the title, which encourages them to predict letter patterns. We discuss the proper use of capital letters in book titles. Based on the title, students can also predict what will happen in the story. This introduction to a new book encourages students to be ready to listen or to read.

PEGGY COOK
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