



20 WAYS TO PROVIDE INVISIBLE OR SILENT SUPPORT

1. HIGHLIGHT THE DIRECTIONS.

On a complex or dense worksheet or lab assignment, highlight the key directions.

2. HIDE IN PLAIN SIGHT.

Float around the room and support all students. Check in on the student if they ask or if you notice they are stuck and need support.

3. TEXT A CHECKLIST.

Create a checklist of written directions for the student to follow 1) read with a partner, 2) answer the question, 3) find another partner and compare.

4. PROVIDE A MODEL.

For example, in advance model a similar math problem with the work shown and correct answer on the top of the worksheet.

5. ENLIST A PEER.

For example, say, “Claire, can you work with Javier to find the correct beaker size for this lab?”

6. CREATE MATERIALS IN ADVANCE.

For example, have key vocabulary from the lesson listed and defined in a Google DRIVE document, printed out, or written on the white board for all to use.

7. REDUCE THE WORK.

For example, if the student can do three problems independently. Expect only three problems rather than five.

8. USE TECHNOLOGY.

For example, provide ongoing feedback and support without peers/others knowing by typing comments on a separate document or space.

9. USE ASK 3 BEFORE ME.

Implement a classroom policy in which all students get help from three peers before asking you or the teacher.

10. HERE FOR ALL.

Rather than supporting a single student, be available to support everyone.

II. PROVIDE STOP-BY SUPPORT

This means, only stop and check in on the student you support after you've checked in on at least 6 other students. Then repeat.

12. USE A STICKY-NOTE OR A BOOKMARK.

Mark pages in the text that the student needs to open - whether in a printed text or with digital tools.

13. PREP FOR DISCUSSION.

For example, write down several questions the student can ask or comments they can share during a class discussion.

14. SUGGEST A POINTER.

Allow students to share their screen and use their cursor as a pointer during class read alouds or use their finger or finger pointers to follow the text as they read.

15. TRANSITION WORDLESSLY.

Use a timer on your phone to let your student know through a back channel (i.e., send them a text or write a small note) that it is time to transition to the next task or class.

16. ENGAGE PARTNERS.

Ensure every student has a “go to” peer or partner that can provide support when needed.

17. TEXT SUPPORT.

Use a student's phone to offer support via text or notes.

18. BOOKMARK IT.

Set up the student's device with bookmarked sites so they can easily navigate to frequently used websites— such as email, Google Classroom, Khan Academy, etc.

19. SIMPLIFY.

If directions or language is complex, complicated, or speedy, write it down in simplified language, use icons and images, slow the speed of a speech to text app, or chunk the task into a few different parts.

20. GUIDE THEM.

Create a graphic organizer or other guided notes template to help students organize key ideas from a lesson.