

Mentor Tips for Classroom Time

Students in upper elementary grades need structured, focused academic support in order to build basic study habits and prepare for middle school and beyond. UCSD mentors are role models in every sense of the word. You must model appropriate academic behavior at all times. The students are watching you and take cues from your engagement and attitude. Below are some suggestions for ways to be helpful in the classroom.

During Whole Class Instruction:

Stay engaged in the lesson.
Model taking notes.

During Independent Work Time:

Help students stay focused on their work.

Ask guiding and focusing questions:

- What are you working on?
- How's it going?
- What's the next step?
- What do you understand about the job?
- What's tricky or confusing?
- How can you figure out what to do?

Getting Students Focused/Refocused on Their Work:

Students might try to engage you in side conversations during class time. While it is tempting to chat, you must redirect the students to their classwork. Some appropriate responses might be:

- I'd like to talk to you about that but let's wait until recess.
- What are you supposed to be doing right now?
- During class time I want to help you with your work.
- I really want to help with your schoolwork. If you don't need my help right now I'll go find someone else to work with and we can talk later.

What Not To Do:

- Text or use any technology
- Appear bored or disengaged
- Distract your mentees or any other students in the class
- Do your own school work
- Interrupt the teacher
- Socialize with other mentors/adults in the room

Communicating With Your Host Teacher:

Classroom teachers have very busy schedules. They rarely have open time during the day. Therefore it is imperative that you find a way to stay in contact with your host teacher while avoiding interruptions or last minute requests. Find your host teacher's preferred method of communication and use it throughout the quarter. Some options might be:

- an interactive journal that is left in the classroom
- email
- scheduling meetings before or after school
- leaving a note on the teacher's desk