Teach & Kids Learn

Course Title: Best Practices for the Classroom	
Number of Content Modules: 4	**Grade Levels:** K-5
Questions: 1-855-498-4400 PD@TeachnKidsLearn.com	**TKL Catalog:** https://teachingknowledgeloop.com/external-catalog

Course Description

This course on best practices for the elementary school classroom will provide educators with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively plan, implement, and assess their instruction.

The course will cover critical principles for teaching and learning, including aligning instructional objectives to standards and identifying the scope and sequence of content. Educators will learn strategies for designing engaging and practical lessons that support student learning and development. They will examine unbiased techniques for assessing student progress.

In addition, the course will explore the importance of communicating with families about student progress, including the use of various tools and strategies for keeping families informed and involved in their child's education.

Throughout the course, educators will have the opportunity to reflect on their teaching practices and develop a plan for incorporating best practices into their classrooms. The goal of the course is to empower educators to become confident and competent elementary school teachers equipped to create positive, meaningful learning experiences for all students.

Course Objectives

CO.1 Apply techniques that communicate value for students' identities, ideas, and assets. [Danielson Components 2b, 3a, 4b]

CO.2 Implement practices for professional growth, including using culturally responsive approaches for assessing students, surveying students for their constructive feedback, and engaging in critical reflection about the influence of teachers' experiences, assumptions, and biases on their professional practice. [Danielson Components 2c, 3a]

CO.3 Use equitable instructional practices to support students who are neurodiverse, multilingual, gifted, and from historically marginalized groups such as African-American, Latino, Indigenous, and LGBTQIA+ students. [Danielson Components 3a, 3e]

CO.4 Design a safe and structured learning environment to capitalize on students' cultural and linguistic assets. [Danielson Component 1b, 1e, 2a, 3c, 4e]

CO.5 Design productive, supportive learning partnerships with families and students using asset-focused approaches and communication. [Danielson Components 2b, 3a, 4c]

CO.6 Identify and apply elements of classroom culture and instruction that provide equitable access to rigorous content. [Danielson Components 1b, 1c, 1e, 2a,2b, 3a, 3b, 3d, 3e]

CO.7 Design effective lesson plans that align goals, instruction, and assessment with standards. [Danielson Components 1c,1f, 2b, 3a, 3d]

CO.8 Apply culturally responsive approaches to planning, instruction, and assessment to select and teach curricula. [Danielson Component #b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 1f, 3d, 4f]

CO.9 Design scaffolds and supports to ensure students access complex, grade-level appropriate content. [Danielson Component 1a, 1e, 2a, 3c, 4e]

CO.10 Implement practices for accurate and equitable grading and documentation of student progress. [Danielson Components 4b, 4f]

CO.11 Apply an asset-focused, culturally responsive mindset that acknowledges the influence of cultural incongruence between home, community, and school for students from historically underserved and marginalized groups on learning and belonging. [Danielson Components 2b, 3a]

CO.12 Reflect in brave learning spaces to a) center experiences and perspectives of non-dominant groups, b) surface and interrogate beliefs, norms, assumptions, and practices that contribute to inequity, and c) reflect on the influence of socialization, identity, and culture on teaching and learning. [Danielson 4a]

Course Outline

Course Introduction Module	
Course available completely online (24/7 and Self-Paced)	Assignments due by the end of the term.

Module Topics

In this module, you will learn about the course set-up, expectations for learning and collaborating, meet your colleagues, and reflect on your prior knowledge about teaching with artificial intelligence.

- Course Navigation & Methodology
- Course Description
- A Transformative Approach to Education
- Expectations and Community Agreements for Engaging in Brave Dialogue
- Community Building Circle: Course Story
- Course Objectives

Module 1: Setting Expectations: Standards and Student Learning Objectives

Module Topics

In module one, educators will understand the principles of the science of learning and how these principles frame our learning, teaching, and assessment practices. Educators will understand how to analyze cognitive processes and types of content knowledge to craft precise, standards-based learning objectives.

Section 1: Priming the Brain for Learning
- *Learn about it!* Science of Learning [30min]
- *Reflect on it!* Culturally Responsive Approaches to Learning [30min]
- *Learn about it!* Mind and Movement [30 min]
- *Practice it!* Safe Spaces for Learning [90min]
- *Reflect on it!* Cognitively Considerate Principles of Design [30min]

Section 2: Aligning Student Learning Objectives to Standards
- *Learn about it!* Designing Effective Student Learning Objectives [30min]
- *Learn about it!* English Language Arts Learning Standards [20min]
- *Practice it!* Student Learning Objectives in English Language Arts [60min]
- *Learn about it!* Social Studies Learning Standards [20min]
- *Practice it!* Student Learning Objectives in Social Studies [30min]
- *Learn about it!* Science Learning Standards [20min]
- *Practice it!* Student Learning Objectives in Science [30min]
- *Learn about it!* Physical Education Learning Standards [20min]
- *Practice it!* Student Learning Objectives in Physical Education [30min]

- *Learn about it!* Arts Standards Implementation Resources [20min]
- *Practice it!* Student Learning Objectives in the Arts [30min]
- *Learn about it!* Mathematics Learning Standards [20min]
- *Practice it!* Student Learning Objectives: Mathematics [30min]

Section 3: Module 1 Wrap-Up
- *Learn about it!* Learning Objectives and Pygmalion Effect [30min]
- *Master it!* Critiquing Learning Objectives [90min]

Module 2: Principles and Practices for Teaching and Learning
Module Topics

In this module, you will learn evidence-based principles and practices for teaching and learning that apply across content areas.

Section 1: The Role of Prior Knowledge in Learning
- *Learn about It!* Knowing What Students Know [25min]
- *Learn about It!* Funds of Knowledge [25min]
- *Reflect on It!* Socialized Beliefs about Funds of Knowledge [30min]
- *Reflect on It!* Conceptual Growth and Conceptual Change [30min]
- *Practice It!* Designing Instruction to Capitalize on Prior Knowledge [90min]

Section 2: Practice, Transfer, and Generalization of Knowledge and Skills
- *Learn about It!* Designing Intentional Practice Opportunities [25min]
- *Practice It!* Principles of Effective Feedback [90min]
- *Learn about It!* Conditions for Transfer and Generalization of Skills and Strategies [25min]

Section 3: Culturally Responsive Instructional Practices
- *Learn about It!* Models of Instruction for Multilingual Learners [30min]
- *Learn about It!* Teaching Neurodiverse Students [25min]
- *Reflect on It!* Asset-Focused Perspectives on Neurodiversity [60min]
- *Learn about It!* Implicit Bias and Stereotype Threat 30min]
- *Learn about It!* Teaching Gifted Learners [25min]
- *Reflect on It!* Surface, Shallow, and Deep Culture [30min]
- *Reflect on It!* Principles of Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education [30min]

Section 4: Module Wrap-Up
- *Master It!* Critiquing Curriculum for Cultural Responsiveness [120min]

Module 3: Unbiased and Informative Assessments
Module Topics

In this module, we will identify characteristics of formative assessment, summative assessment, and assessment validity. We will analyze student work using rubrics and learning objectives. Finally, we will critique assessments for bias and design valid assessments to measure learning.

Section 1: Summative Assessments
- *Learn about it!* Summative Assessments [30min]
- *Practice it!* ELA Summative Assessments [60min]
- *Practice it!* Math Summative Assessments [60min]
- *Learn about it!* Science Summative Assessments [60min]
- *Learn about it!* Social Studies Summative Assessments [60min]
- *Practice it!* Identifying Bias in Assessment [60min]
- *Reflect on it!* Culturally Responsive Assessment Practices [30min]

Section 2: Formative Assessments
- *Learn about it!* Formative Assessment in the Content Areas [30min]
- *Practice it!* Designing a Formative Assessment [90min]

Section 3: Module 3 Wrap-Up
- *Master it!* Summative Assessment Critique [120min]

Module 4: Communicating about Student Progress
Module Topics

In this module, educators will explore accurate and equitable methods for measuring student progress and discuss culturally responsive approaches to communicating about progress to students and their families.

Section 1: Valid and Equitable Grading Policies and Practices
- *Reflect on It!* Accurate and Equitable Grading [45min]
- *Practice It!* Student Feedback on Grades [60min]

Section 2: Effective Family-School Communication
- *Learn about It!* Establishing Learning Partnerships with Students and Families [45min]
- *Learn about It!* Trust Generators [30min]
- *Reflect on It!* Getting to Know Students and Families [45min]
- *Reflect on It!* Successful Family School Partnerships [45min]
- *Reflect on It!* Community Concern Circle: Family Engagement [60min]

- *Learn about It!* Student Led Conferences [60min]

Section 3: Effective Family-School Communication
- *Master It!* Setting Goals for Successful Family-School Partnerships [120min]

Course Wrap-Up Module
Module Topics

In the Course Wrap-Up Module, you will reflect on your self-efficacy for mastering the course objectives.

Section 1: Summative Course Reflection
- Master It! Summative Course Reflection [30min]
- Reflect on It! Course Evaluation and Feedback [30min]
- Learn about It! Course Reference List