# Students Set Goals, Self-Instruct, Self Monitor and Learn

IRIS Module: SOS: Helping Students become independent learners.

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#### What?

- "This Module describes how teachers can help students stay on task by learning to regulate their behavior."
- Four Strategies:
- 1. Self-monitoring
- 2. Self-instruction
- 3. Goal-setting
- 4. Self-reinforcement

# Recap of Challenge

- Alexandra and Zach are both in Ms. Torri's 7<sup>th</sup> grade math class.
- Alexandra and Zach both have IEPs for reading.
- · Alexandra has an inability to pay attention.
- · Zach has an inability to complete assignments.
- Work is not hard, they are both performing mathematics at grade level.

# Recap continued...

- Alexandra is always out of her seat socializing with friends
- Zach can't stay focused. Ms. Torri needs to be near him to get his assignments done.



# What's the problem?

- Alexandra and Zach are not learning life skills for managing their time and attention.
- The time their behavior is taking away from the other students.
- As time goes on Zach and Alexandra won't be able to focus and complete tasks independently.

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# Initial Thoughts • Why do you suppose Zach and Alexandra can't stay on task and are so easily distracted? Underlying attention deficit disorder? Too many distractions in their environment? Lessons and content are not interesting and bording?



What techniques will help Alexandra and Zach become independent learners, and how can they gain those skills?
Four Strategies:

Self-monitoring
Self-instruction
Goal-setting
Self-reinforcement

#### Set Goals

- Step 1: Choose an Appropriate Goal
- Goals should be specific
- Goal should be reachable
- Step 2: Determine a Timeline
  - Make short term and long term goals
- Step 3: Establish Progress Monitoring
  - Provide students with feedback on how they are doing

#### How?

 The teacher and Zach should collaborate in setting goals. Zach should contribute in making his own goals.

#### Self-Instruction

- AKA... Self talk or Self talk
- Students learn to talk themselves through a task or activity.



#### **Benefits**

- Provides students with an element of control over their learning
- Requires a minimal amount of time to maintain skills once they are developed.

# Self-Monitoring

- Strategy that teaches students to self-assess their behavior and record the result.
- It increases or decreases the frequency, intensity, or duration of existing behavior.

#### Self-Monitoring of Attention

SMA is great for students who might be easily distracted, get up from their seats, bother other students, or fiddle with objects. The student can monitor the frequency or duration of these behaviors.



## **Student Outcomes**

- Practicing self-regulation allows students to reinforce their own behaviors.
- Will empower students to facilitate changes in their behavior.
- Students can transfer skills into other areas of life.

## References

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