



Tips for Success with Students

Thank you for joining us in nurturing Oregon students' literacy and understanding of agriculture. It is because of volunteers like you that this event is possible.

Volunteers Make Things Happen!

Each year volunteers read to students in counties statewide.

AITC in a Nutshell

AITC is a non-profit educational organization working to teach Oregon students about agriculture, the source of our food and fiber, and its impact on our economy, natural resources and daily lives.

Have Fun!

Enjoy this wonderful experience of reading aloud and teaching children.

Practice!

Prepare by reading the book both silently and aloud before you get to the classroom. Also, review the activity materials and practice presenting it to someone else. Practicing will help ensure you have time to read the story, talk about key points and complete the activity within the allotted time.

Location, location, location.

Make sure all the students can see the book and hear you so they will be good listeners.

Introduce yourself and share your connect to agriculture.

Share your name, that you are there to read a book and do a fun activity. Briefly tell students about your personal connection to agriculture (bring pictures or props).

Introduce the book.

Read the title and names of the author and illustrator. Show excitement!

Invite students to look and listen while you read.

One of the best parts of books are the pictures. Have students identify items in the pictures, particularly illustrations that pertain to the message in the story.

Move the book around as you read.

Either while reading, or after reading each page, move the book so each student can see the great illustrations. This is especially important for younger grades.

Pay very close attention to the children.

Pacing is critical. Move along fast enough to maintain their interest and attention, but slowly enough for all students to thoroughly enjoy the story. Modulate your voice to emphasize key points.

Ending the story.

When the story is over, often the students are finished too. So, when you share or reflect on the book keep it short and to the point. End while the students are still engaged.



Classroom Management Tips

Tips for Success with Students

During your visit to a classroom, the teacher should remain in the classroom at all times. The classroom teacher has the responsibility to manage the discipline of their class but as a volunteer presenter, you can help keep students engaged and maintain a safe learning environment using these tips.

Prior to Visit

In your planning conversations with the teacher, be sure to ask the following questions.

- What type of “quiet” signal do they use to get student attention; this will help transition student’s attention as you move through the different activities within the lesson plans.
- Share an overview of the activities and ask if there are students who will require accommodations to the activity.

Try to connect with students

Consider having them wear nametags or create name tents so you can use their names throughout the lesson or activity.

Be Positive and Enthusiastic

Explain your connection to agriculture and the community.

Keep Instructions Simple

Using clear instructions will help students minimize confusion and be productive in the activities.

Expect respect

Do not try to talk over students, try using silence and their “quiet” signal.

Be on the Move!

Try moving near a distracted student to help motivate them to rejoin the activity.

Use Open-ended questions

This will require students to provide more than a “yes” or “no” answer. This allows more students to add input into the discussion.

Acknowledge good behavior

Thank students for sitting in their seat quietly awaiting instructions.

Respect all cultures, backgrounds, and beliefs

Classrooms have students coming from a variety of different cultures and backgrounds. Encourage them to share their personal experiences as it relates to the activity or content.