



Massachusetts Department of
ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY
EDUCATION

ESE Model Grades K – 2 Discussion Prompts & Administration Protocol

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of Elementary and Secondary Education
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Overview

The K – 2 discussion prompts represent a subset of items that were piloted with students in Kindergarten, first, and second grades during the ESE Model Pilot Survey Project. These items are intended to serve as discussion prompts for early elementary teachers to use with their students to collect feedback about their practice.

The following items may be used by teachers in a conversational setting with individual students or small groups of students. They are listed in no particular order. A teacher may choose to use them in any way that he/she and his/her evaluator deem helpful. Teachers may want to record notes as students respond.

K-2 Discussion Prompts

1. Students help each other to learn.
2. When asked, I can talk about what I am learning.
3. When I am stuck, my teacher wants me to try again before she or he helps me.
4. I have to explain my thinking when I write, answer questions and talk about my work.
5. When my teacher is talking, he or she asks us if we understand.
6. After I talk to my teacher, I know how to make my work better.

Instructions for Administering

Districts should work with their K – 2 teachers to determine the best way to administer the discussion prompts – whether it is soliciting responses from individual students, small groups of students, or a full class. If a teacher or school wants to preserve student confidentiality in the solicitation of verbal feedback, another staff member familiar to the students may engage them in responses to these discussion prompts. However, steps must be taken to ensure that younger students are clear about the subject (their teacher) of the discussion.

It is important to make students feel comfortable responding to the discussion prompts. Prior to beginning the discussion, classroom teachers or proctors should inform students of its purpose. Communicate to students that they are having this discussion to help their teacher learn how they feel about being a student their (the teacher's) class. The reason for the discussion is to help their teacher make their class even better. Students should be assured that there are no right or wrong answers, and that they should answer honestly.

Students in Grades K – 2 will require guidance and support when engaging in discussion about the prompts. The classroom teacher or survey proctor may clarify or rephrase words if a student does not understand.

Grades K – 2 ESE Model Discussion Prompts: ITEM KEY

The following table provides a crosswalk between discussion prompts and the [Standards and Indicators of Effective Teaching Practice](#). You may sort the table differently by selecting it and finding the Sort function in the Table Layout tab.

Standard I: Curriculum, Planning & Assessment	Standard II: Teaching All Students
I.A: Curriculum & Planning I.B: Assessment I.C: Analysis	II.B: Learning Environment II.D: Expectations

Standard/ Indicator	#	Item
II.B	1.	Students help each other to learn
II.D	2.	When asked, I can talk about what I am learning.
II.B	3.	When I am stuck, my teacher wants me to try again before she or he helps me.
I.A	4.	I have to explain my thinking when I write, answer questions and talk about my work.
I.B	5.	When my teacher is talking, he or she asks if we understand.
I.C	6.	After I talk to my teacher, I know how to make my work better.