

KATHY PATERSON

THE
HOW
AND



OF
TEACHING



Quick ideas for mastering any
classroom situation effectively, efficiently,
and enthusiastically

A Sampler of Reproducibles for Classroom Use

The How and WOW of Teaching!

Since the *wow* of teaching is a direct result of understanding the how of teaching, how is it possible to make all the magic, all that *wow*, come about in your class? And all while managing the endless requirements of your profession? The answers can be found in the strategies and activities in this book. And the best place to start engaging students is getting to know them better.

School Survey

Please answer all the questions as well as you can. Use the back if you need more space.

1. Do you like reading or being read to? Yes No
2. Do you have any brothers/sisters? If so, what are their names?
3. What is your favorite TV show?
4. Do you have a favorite online game? If so, what is it?
5. Do you belong to an after-school sport/club/team/activity? Please tell me about it.
6. Do you have a pet? Please tell me about it if you do.
7. What is your favorite school subject?
8. What is your least-favorite school subject?
9. Do you have any chores at home? If so, what are they?
10. Who is your favorite pop star?
Movie star?
Superhero?
11. Who is your real-life hero?
Why?
12. What kind of music do you like?
13. What do you like to do after school?
14. Tell me about one goal you have for the future.



Starting and Stopping a Lesson, and Everything in Between

Not all lessons are pre-planned; many are spontaneous teachable moments. For prepped lessons, concise, snappy, attention-getting beginnings; enthusiastic deliveries; and succinct, recapping closings are the tenets of good teaching. Changing a less-than-effective lesson into one that roars can move teaching from mediocre to wow!

How-to-Wow Checklists

The Perfect Lesson...

- Starts with a bang
- Uses TRAIN for delivery
- Ends with a smart conclusion, new idea, or partial summary
- Has students summarize on their own

The Teachable Moment

- Recognize those moments when they occur.
- Ask yourself "Do I stop and use this moment, or put it aside until later?"
- Make the most of the moment(s) using SPARK.
- Create your own teachable occasions every day.
- Follow up with debriefing and learning-review tasks

Content Instruction

How can you be an attention-keeper when you have to impart facts to your class? Impress them with preparation, experience, knowledge, and expertise about the content, or, alternatively, with your enthusiastic desire to pursue with the students what you do not know. You want to wow them with your wit and awareness of their needs.

How-to-Wow Checklists

Content Delivery in Class

- Use the tried and true lecture method with flair and enthusiasm.
- Use alternative methods for content delivery, including technology, gaming, virtual field trip, and project approach.
- Consider using a varied, combined approach for best results.

Giving Memorable Directions

- Get attention.
- Provide directions in more than one modality.
- Check for understanding through repetition and/or questioning.
- Use models and demonstrations often.

Memory Enhancement

- Talk about memory. Draw attention to it all the time.
- Make use of the Memory Basics (page 32) for memory enhancement daily.
- Use Giving Directions steps (pages 32–33) daily.
- Use memory enhancement tricks and techniques in the classroom.
- Familiarize yourself with memory games and use them freely interspersed with regular core teaching.

Teaching Spelling

- Teach spelling in class in context.
- Play spelling games regularly.
- Draw students' attention to spelling in context all the time.
- Constantly remind students about the difference between texting and in-school spelling.

How-to-Wow Checklists (continued)

Teaching Grammar

- Teach grammar in context, all the time for younger students.
- Make use of teachable moments every time a grammar crisis occurs.
- Point out good grammar in text and oral communication.
- Teach awareness of poor grammar.
- Talk, talk, and talk about the importance of good grammar.
- Use grammar games to reinforce concepts.

Teaching Strategies

Strategies are way to teach, and you will develop ones that work for you if you haven't already. A good teaching strategy is as much choosing what not to do as it is choosing what you will do. As a framework of what to do, it is comforting reassurance that what you are doing as a teacher is wise, premeditated, and proven to be effective.

How-to-Wow Checklists: Teaching Strategies

Using Teaching Strategies

- Familiarize yourself with a variety of strategies
- Connect a chosen strategy to your lesson objective.
- Prepare all that is required for that strategy.
- Introduce the strategy and the objective to the class. Be clear on your role in development of that strategy.
- Remain open-minded. Other strategies may slip into play. Go with it.
- Close by summarizing and pointing out how the strategy used facilitated learning.

Group Work Strategy

- Quickly get students into groups before telling them what they will be doing.
- Give clear concise directions and share the purpose and objective of the group.
- Hand out materials and rubrics and/or checklists.
- Set a time limit. Use a timer.
- Circulate.
- Let students know when they have, say 5 or 10 minutes, to finish up and tell them where they should be at this point in their work.
- Finish on time. Review whether more time is required, and summarize the group experience by again telling them why they were in groups.

Inquiry-Based Instruction

- Present the problem or situation.
- Discuss possible ways to proceed.
- During individual work time, check for appropriateness of pursuits.
- Review, share, debrief.

How-to-Wow Checklists: Teaching Strategies (continued)

Portfolios

- Choose and discuss a topic or theme.
- Choose a receptacle.
- Share a model portfolio.
- Hand out student checklists.
- Review resources.
- Allow class time; do periodic checks.
- Share.

Class Discussion

- Inform students you are going to have a discussion and what the discussion will be about.
- Start off by offering a comment.
- Have prompting questions ready if needed.
- Mediate the discussion.
- Encourage summarization and closure.

Interdisciplinary Instruction

- Start with a key core concept.
- Chart it together with other core concepts.
- Present it as a regular lesson.
- Constantly recheck original objectives.

Role Play

- Choose a scenario.
- Form small groups and choose roles.
- Provide brief practice time.
- Share the plays; teacher side coaches.
- Debrief..



How-to-Wow Checklists: Teaching Strategies (continued)

Using Visuals

- Introduce the topic then share the visual, or share the visual and invite guesses as to why you have done that.
- Allow some discussion of the visual. (Or touching if it is a tactile visual)
- Proceed with the lesson, intermittently referring back to the visual.
- When closing the lesson, again remind students why the visual was used, and what its importance might be.

Practicing

- Create atmosphere.
- Set your mood.
- Establish a goal.
- Be realistic (know yourself).
- Set breaks.
- Understand roadblocks.

Goal-Setting

- Think of an end or goal to be reached.
- Formulate an action plan, in steps.
- Begin the attack.
- Stop and evaluate after a brief time.
- Change action plan if necessary.

Strategies for Teaching Literacy

When a teacher teaches a student to read, the teacher has given that child a super power. What could possibly have a greater wow factor than that? All teachers have witnessed the proverbial light going on, the “aha!” moment when a student finally gets it. This is a huge wow, experienced by the student and witnessed by the teacher.

How-to-Wow Checklists: Teaching Literacy

Phonics

- Use established phonic rules and sequences of instruction.
- Teach in context.
- Play phonics games.
- Use “tricks.”
- Read/write daily.

Fluency

- Model
- Read together/Shared reading
- Rereading/Practice
- Rebus system
- Buddy system
- Sing/Read
- Fluency games

Comprehension

- Prepare: tap into background knowledge. Provide leading questions.
- Use the Explain/Model/Guided Practice/Application process to teach specific comprehension strategies.
- Encourage checking for understanding while reading.
- Play comprehension games

How-to-Wow Checklists: Teaching Literacy (continued)

Spelling

- Talk about spelling.
- Begin with phonics.
- Teach spelling rules in context.
- Chunk words.
- Use the *Does it look right?* strategy.
- Play spelling games.

Grammar

- Talk about good grammar.
- Read and write, and read and write.
- Teach basic grammar in context
- Look for grammar examples everywhere
- Play grammar games



Strategies for Life and Living

Teaching our students how to live, how to make the most of their lives is not small task, but it is one with which teachers deal on a daily basis. Everything you say, do, think, and share is observed and catalogued by your students. Adding wow to teaching means going above and beyond expectations, and when you choose to teach life skills, this is exactly what you are doing.

How-to-Wow Checklists

Emotional Coping

- Identify the feeling.
- Remove self and deep breathe.
- Imagine a bubble, calm spot, personal reboot,
- Hold a calming article.
- Do a repetitive action or hear repetitive sounds.
- Use positive self-talk.
- Laugh/belly smile.

Classroom Diversity Instruction

- Discuss and celebrate diversity.
- Know your students.
- Use varied teaching strategies.
- Provide equal opportunities to learn.
- Include varied learning and reading materials.
- Celebrate cultural holidays.
- Understand cultural parenting styles.
- Study the world.

Managing Difficult Behavior

- Establish a relationship.
- Promote responsibility.
- Maintain a safe classroom.
- Use proximity.
- Be consistent.
- Set clear expectations.
- Never give up.

Teaching Responsibilities

Being a teacher involves so much more than just teaching. Just consider how many different things you start every day. You inspire with questions, you awaken joy in creative expression, you arouse natural curiosity, you assist with discovery. You are amazing.

How-to-Wow Checklists: Marking

Marking

- Use the same place, a positive attitude, and a timer for marking.
- Chunk the marking and choose a strategy, such as using a comments bank.
- Skim first.
- Focus (avoid interruptions).
- Set realistic goals for yourself.
- Record both marks and your time goal.

Marking Written Work

- Challenge the students by gently pushing them.
- Tell students specifically how to improve. Even the good ones.
- Check your notes to see if students have followed up on any comments you have made previously and react accordingly.
- Focus on improvement.
- Provide two positives for every negative. Limit the negatives or suggestions for improvement to two or three.
- Consider thanking students for sharing their work. Writing is a very personal experience. Think how pleased each student would be if they found the comment, "Thank you for sharing this beautiful piece about..." on a paper.
- Be aware that too much marking can actually prevent students from using self-regulation strategies like editing and proofreading.

This remarkable book shows you how you can do almost everything better and add some WOW to all subject areas. Based on extensive classroom practice, *The How and Wow of Teaching* is full of simple ideas for improving classroom instruction in reading, writing, and math, as well as for building life skills and social-emotional learning.

Teachers succeed when they grow, develop, and strive to maintain the excitement and wonder – the WOW – of learning. This book examines a wide variety of daily tasks, from delivering engaging lessons to nurturing life skills. Throughout the book, simple steps for instruction are explained, along with suggestions for fun-filled activities and games. Practical and hands-on, the book offers tricks, techniques, and original ideas for excellent classroom instruction in all subject areas.

A valuable resource for creating the “magic” that happens with good teaching, the book offers

- tips for starting and stopping a lesson and everything in between
- ready-to-use suggestions for teaching in any subject area
- more than 50 proven strategies and classroom tools for easy implementation

The How and Wow of Teaching is ideal for new and experienced teachers who want to use the WOW factor to remain motivated as they enrich the classroom learning experience for students.

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Kathy Paterson taught K–12 students for more than 30 years and worked with touring groups of students involved in original drama productions. A former instructor at the University of Alberta, her honors include being selected as Teacher of the Year. Among her numerous books for teachers, Kathy’s *3-Minute Motivators* is an international bestseller. Kathy lives in Edmonton, Alberta, where she shares her unique ideas with groups of teachers and volunteers in Edmonton Public Schools. Her granddaughter Emma is the wow of Kathy’s life and a daily reminder of the joy that comes from teaching and learning.

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