

Using Space and Time Effectively FAQs

Remember: When modeling how to use Space and Time, there is no need to narrate. We model by doing. It is the students' job to watch, listen, and notice things on their own. If we narrate, we are doing the heavy lifting for them.

What if my students are using Space and Time to get out of work?

Answer: Proactively teaching why, when, and how to use Space and Time is key. Explain that this is a strategy to be used only when students are told to do so or when they truly need it. If a student is hanging out in Space and Time too long, check in with them. They may be choosing to avoid difficult work, a partner who is frustrating them, or another situation that requires some teacher support or scaffolding to address.

What if my students begin to take advantage of Space and Time?

Answer: If students begin to take advantage of Space and Time, use Interactive Modeling to reteach the strategy and reiterate the goals. If it continues to be a problem for a specific student, have a conversation with them about why they are using Space and Time so often. Structure that student's Space and Time by using a timer to indicate how long they can stay or naming a set number of times they can use the strategy.

How long should students stay in Space and Time?

Answer: Space and Time is generally brief, though it depends on the individual student's ability to regain control and return to the group. Students should stay in Space and Time until they are calm. If a student is having trouble calming down, discretely and matter-of-factly direct them to choose another strategy that has already been taught. Point to a calm-down strategy card in the Space and Time area or whisper, "Deep breaths or stretching?" If a student is calm and has not returned, use a simple signal to tell them it's time to rejoin the group.

Should I give students work to do during Space and Time?

Answer: No. Space and Time is used as a place for students to go when they are frustrated. They should be allowed to use this spot to step away from their work and come back calm and refocused. Continuing to do the frustrating work in a different location would not help them calm down.

Can my students put themselves in Space and Time?

Answer: Yes, they can. The goal of Space and Time is to help students develop self-control. A student who independently takes Space and Time is showing that they know they need space from a situation to refocus, calm down, or self-regulate. Use Interactive Modeling to specifically teach student-directed Space and Time.