

## Best practice for success

DreamBox Maths is a personalised, adaptive programme that fosters deep conceptual understanding through interactive digital manipulatives and in-lesson feedback. To maximise learning, students need to work independently while teachers provide support through observation and coaching prompts.



The role of the teacher during a DreamBox Maths session is to model curiosity, encourage resilience and perseverance, and ensure lessons are completed without pausing and leaving. Use this guide to effectively monitor your classroom and offer productive support while students engage with DreamBox Maths.

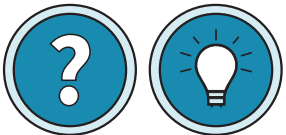
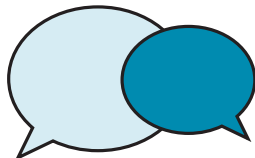
### Monitor lesson progress

- **Start lessons promptly:** When students log in to the Student Dashboard, they should choose a lesson tile and begin working. Encourage them to select a lesson as soon as they log in to make the most of their learning time.
- **After five minutes:** Verify engagement: Walk around the room to ensure each student has started a lesson. If a student is still browsing, remind them to choose a lesson tile and begin.
- **Encourage hints and perseverance:** If students encounter difficulty, remind them to use the Help and Hint buttons to get support. Encourage them to listen closely to the scaffolded instructions, try again if they input the incorrect answer and to persevere until the lesson is complete, even when it is tough.

### Support independence

Use this guidance to support productive struggle and foster conceptual understanding.

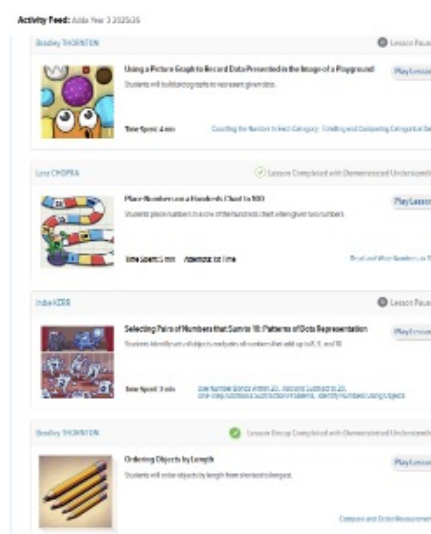
Avoid	Why?	Consider
Doing the thinking or showing the solution for students. 	Solving problems for students prevents them from developing their own strategies and stops the adaptive engine from accurately assessing understanding.	Encourage students to explore manipulatives and strategies on their own. Ask them what they notice or wonder. Allow them to use hints and scaffolded support provided by DreamBox Maths. Model perseverance instead of solutions.
Rushing students through lessons or taking over to speed up progress. 	Rushing can cause anxiety, promote guessing and lead to incomplete understanding. It may also cause DreamBox Maths to misidentify gaps.	Let students progress at their own pace. Remind them that mistakes and productive struggle are part of learning. DreamBox Maths will shut the lesson down if no understanding is being demonstrated.
Introducing advanced strategies or relationships before students explore them. 	Premature guidance deprives students of the chance to make connections and discover patterns themselves.	Ask open questions that prompt students to articulate what they see and think. Encourage them to discover structures and relationships through exploration rather than telling them directly.

Avoid	Why?	Consider
Turning off audio or neglecting hints, directions and accessibility tools. 	Students may miss key instructions and scaffolds that support understanding.	Ensure sound or closed captions are enabled. Remind students to read or listen to directions, use the Help and Hint buttons, and revisit instructions when needed.
Closed-mindset comments such as “I’ve never seen this before”, “I’ve never done it like that”, or “I wouldn’t teach it like that”. 	Remarks like these can model a negative attitude toward unfamiliar representations and manipulatives. The lesson tools are deliberately chosen to develop conceptual understanding and encourage varied strategies; dismissing them may discourage students from exploring and trusting new approaches.	Model curiosity instead. Use open questions like “I wonder what it’s asking you?”, “What an interesting way to show this — can you work out what it’s showing?”, or “What happens when you move that?” to invite exploration and reinforce a positive, inquisitive mindset.

By thoughtfully monitoring and guiding students while they work on DreamBox Maths, you help them develop fluency, reasoning and problem-solving skills without undermining their independence or the programme’s adaptive power.

### Use the Activity Feed report

The Activity Feed in your teacher dashboard provides a live feed of each student’s most recent lesson. It shows at a glance whether a lesson was completed with demonstrated understanding, completed without understanding, or paused and left unfinished. Use this information to identify who may need extra support. This also offers an early insight into which students may need support with their resilience. Pausing and leaving lessons should be discouraged; check in with students who pause to understand why and remind them to persist.



By clicking ‘Play Lesson’, you can even open and play the exact lesson a student was working on – be aware it won’t present you with the exact same problems. You could project it on the big screen to model curiosity; ask why they left the lesson and how they might approach it differently – show ways to keep going when things get hard. This shared discussion helps students learn from mistakes and strengthens their conceptual understanding.