

OPPORTUNITIES TO RESPOND

Opportunities to respond (OTR) is a low-intensity teacher-delivered strategy to manage behavior and support instruction that helps students review material, acquire skill fluency, commit information to memory, and increase on-task behavior and reduce misbehavior (Lane, Menzies, Ennis, & Oakes, 2015). To implement increased rates of OTR, teachers offer students frequent opportunities within a set time period for students to respond to teacher questions or prompts about targeted academic materials. This is best done with material or concepts that have already been taught and students have a basic understanding of, this helps promote student engagement as students practice the information or skill fluency.

General guidelines:

- Best done with material or concepts students have a basic understanding of, as the goal is to help students respond to teacher inquires rapidly and accurately, which promotes their engagement as they practice the information or skill.
- Three or more opportunities to respond per minute is the goal.

OTR is an easy-to-use strategy and can be used to enhance whole-class instruction, small-group and individual instruction (Sutherland & Wright, 2013). To implement, educators will begin by identifying the lesson content to be taught and the instructional objectives (for the whole class or for targeted students). This is followed by preparing a list of questions, prompts or cues related to the content. The educator should decide the modality by which content will be delivered and by which students will respond. Now the educator is ready to conduct the lesson with a minimum of three opportunities to respond per minute using either single-student or unison responding and provide evaluative and encouraging feedback to students. As with any teacher-delivered strategy, students should be offered opportunities to give feedback. The subsequent materials provide teachers a procedural checklist for implementation of OTR as an intervention, sample and illustrations of OTRS in practice, treatment integrity checklist, and pre/post-intervention social validity measures for students and teachers.