



# 7 Tips for Building Connections When Teaching Remotely

Shared by Dr. Anita Archer in a conversation with Pivot Learning's Dr. Monica Ng and Dr. Carrie Thomas Beck

When we're teaching remotely, little gestures and activities can go a long way to make students feel welcome and included. Weaving community building into explicit instruction strengthens student engagement and learning.

Try these tips to build community:

1. When students come online, everyone should have their camera on and be unmuted.
2. Greet each student by name and wave when they come on the screen.
3. Make personal remarks and comments to students during this brief introductory period before you begin your lesson.
4. Once everyone is online, count to three and have students mute themselves.
5. As you go through your lesson, show students that you're engaged with them by smiling, giving a thumbs up, clapping, and using verbal cues frequently like, "good job."
6. Be totally present. Don't check your email, flip between screens, or glance at your phone. Stay focused on your lesson and the students on the screen.
7. At end of your lesson, stop sharing your screen and switch to gallery view so everyone can see each other and wave good-bye. Take a screen shot and send it to students after the lesson to show them their classmates and the group as a community.

[Watch Anita Archer talk about community building.](#)

## Get More Advice for Adapting Your Teaching to Distance Learning

Visit [pivotlearning.org/library](https://pivotlearning.org/library) to watch additional videos featuring Dr. Anita Archer and other experts with tips for adapting instruction and intervention for distance learning. You'll also find many other resources to build your knowledge of word reading difficulties, including dyslexia.