Coffee Chat

with the Diverse Learners Cooperative

Using Tasks Boxes During Remote Learning

- Friday, September 18th
- 8:30 – 8:45am CST

The Diverse Learners Cooperative is a nonprofit organization that connects teachers and leaders with professional **learning**, **resources**, and **networks** to improve outcomes for diverse learners + increase teacher and leader retention
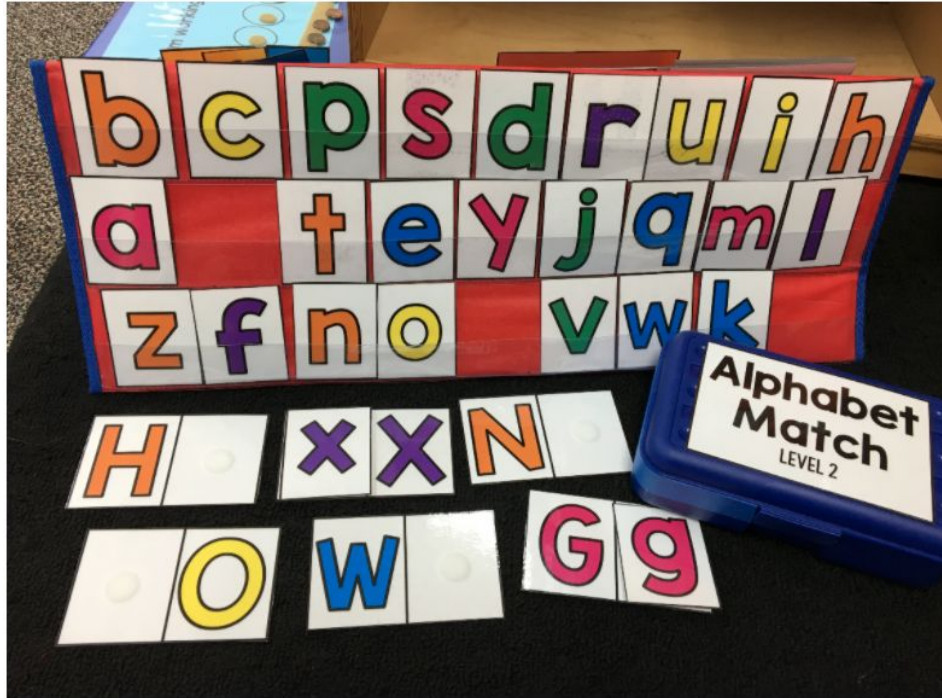
Today's Mission

To learn more about how task boxes can be used to build student independence and reinforce previously taught concepts in virtual and in-person learning

AGENDA:

1. Setting the Stage

2. The Value of a Box!

3. Examples

4. Tips

5. Q & A

What are task boxes?

The value of a box!

> It is not what you do for your children, but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings.
> Ann Landers

1) **The primary goal of using task boxes is to build student independence.** Students will gain the confidence that they can complete work on their own

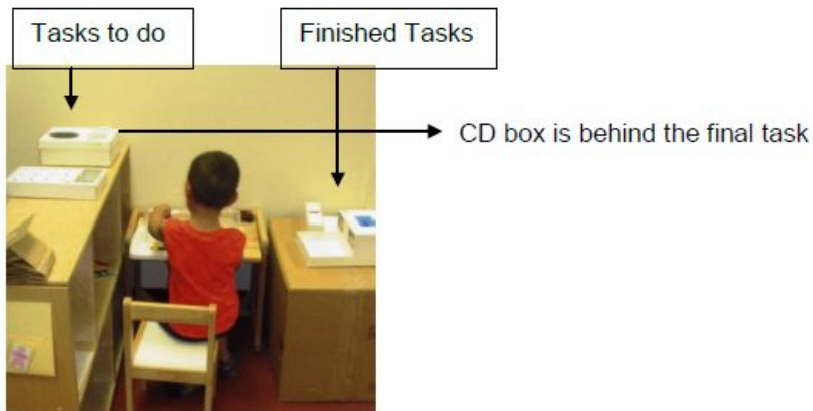2) **Task boxes also help students generalize learned concepts** and provide additional practice or review.

What are task boxes?

- Task boxes are often part of STRUCTURED WORK SYSTEMS.

- In your classroom or in their home, a visual or picture schedule would tell a student WHERE to go at a specific time.

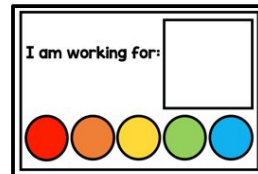- A work system instructs a student on WHAT TO DO once they arrive in the scheduled area.

How Do Task Boxes Build Independence?

For a student that has several academic activities to practice independently, the teacher will arrange them in baskets/folders on a shelf to the student's left. At the end of the row of baskets is a computer CD box, indicating that the computer is the next scheduled activity. The student will complete the first activity and put it in a box/shelf for finished work on the right, then move to the second activity. When all that is left on the shelf is the CD box, the student will transition with the CD box to the computer.

Tasks to do

Finished Tasks

CD box is behind the final task

Indiana Resource Center for Autism

For my more independent students, I attached a Velcro dot to each of the drawers, as well as the finished box. They attach their token board coins to these and earn a break once activities have been completed and put away
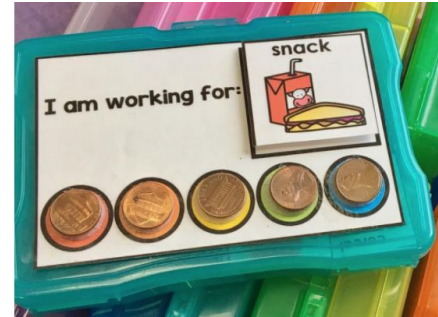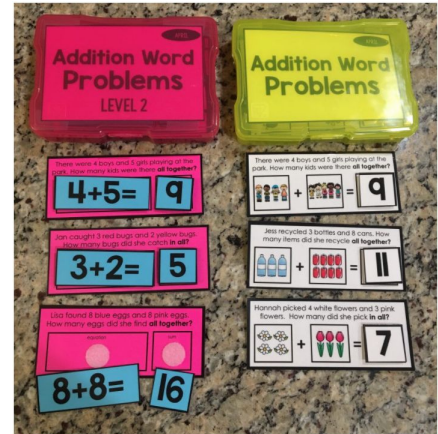
I am working for:

Task Boxes TIPs

✓ **Explicitly teach** students "how" to use the system (i.e video or screen share)

✓ Prioritize **previously taught** concepts (~80% mastery demonstrated)

✓ Designate an **area** of your room (or in the house) for their independent work

✓ **Reinforce often** to build independence!

# 3 Ideas for Implementing Task Boxes for Virtual Learning

1) Shared Box System

2) Individual Student Binder System

3) Virtual Task Boxes

Develop a shared box system

Boxes can align with IEP goals or core content. Some tasks will be individual to the student and others are tasks that would benefit several students.

- Can you create a "box drop" system?

- Use boxes, labels, and reusable materials to maintain durability and organization.

- Students can engage with a box multiple times between drops.

- Support parents to support! Checklist, video model, reinforcement ideas.

- Sanitize in between :)
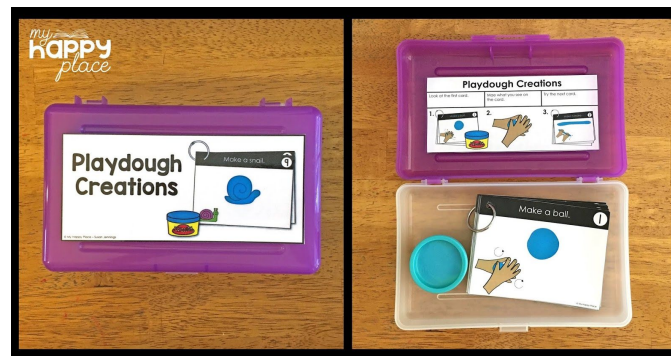
Think Outside the Box → Tips for virtual setting

Send home student binder
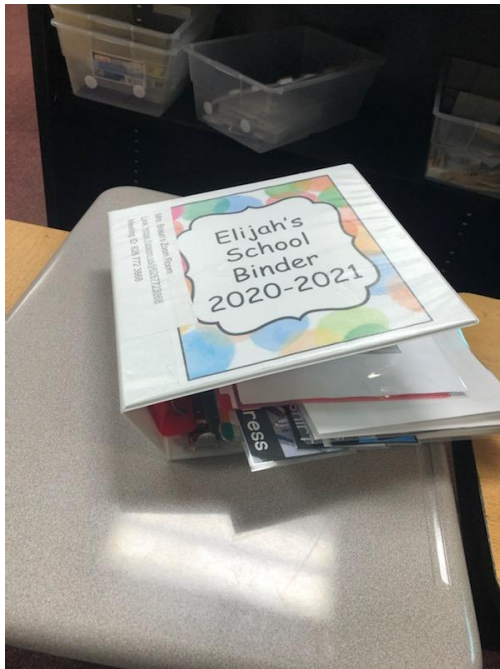
Have sections that mirror their schedule
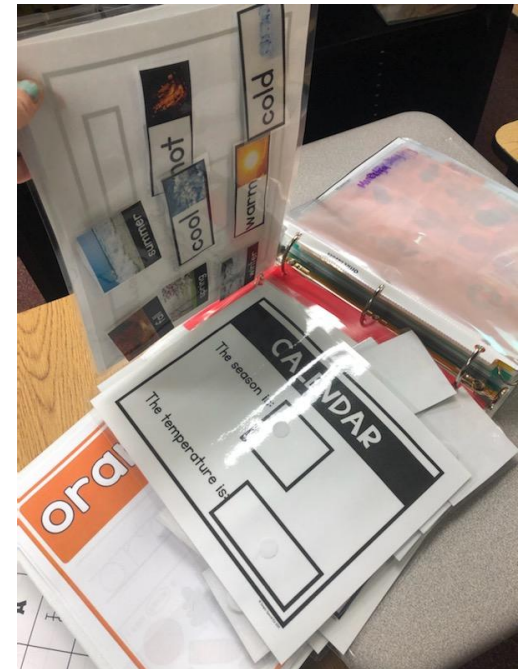
Slides from the *Morning Meeting* mirror what is in the student binder at home
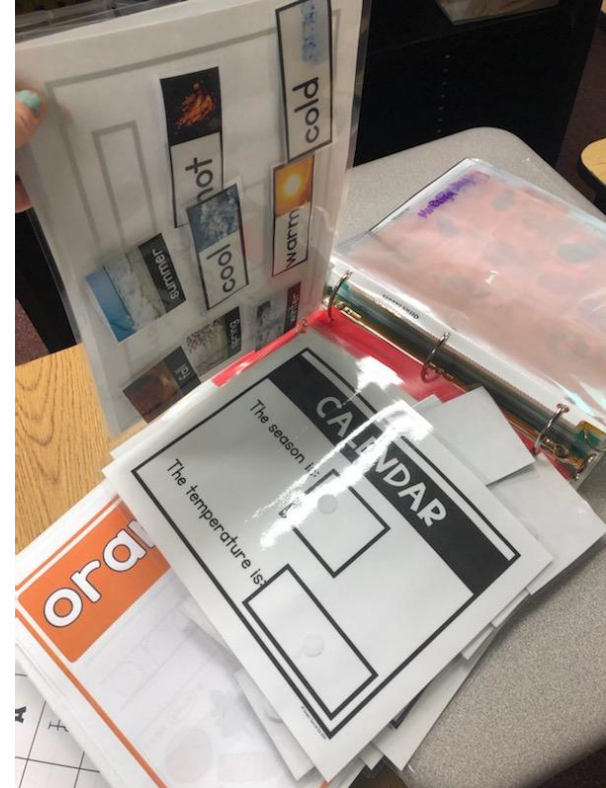
Academic work that is mastered becomes additional practice for when they finish their other activities early
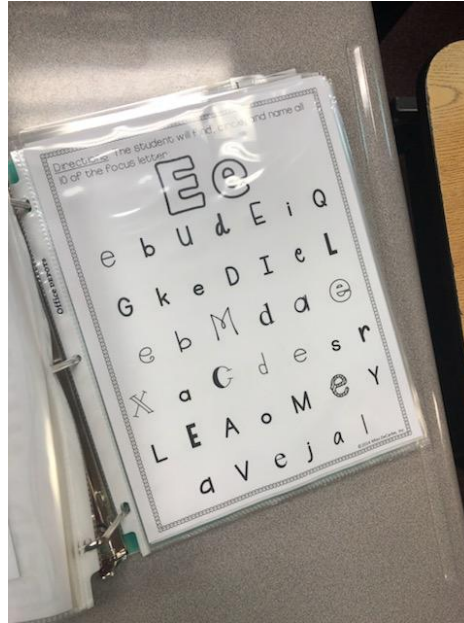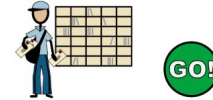
A digital task box?

Sure! Follow the same tips:

- Prioritize independently demonstrated skills

- Explicitly teach procedures

- Reinforce use!

- Provide a new activity when mastery is consistently demonstrated or student is satiated on activity

Resources

- Task Boxes ideas:
  [Especially Education](#)
  [Tasks Galore](#)
  [Shoebox Tasks](#)

- [Quick tips](#) for teaching with an Independent Work System

- [Functional Activities](#) by grade and time of day
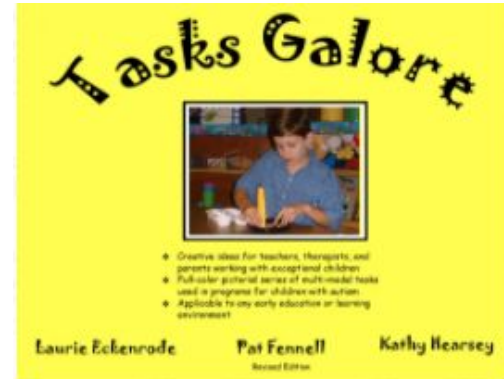
Thank you!

Join us here next time for:

Increasing Opportunities for EL Writing

- Sept 25, 2020
- 8:30 - 8:45am CST

brooke@diverselearnerscoop.com
josh@diverselearnerscoop.com