

Using DoS for Planning STEM

Professional Development Situation: Coaching (Face to Face)
Skill Focus: Preparing Yourself to Facilitate STEM
Time Required: 15 minutes

Purpose: This activity will give participants practice planning the logistics for an activity using the ***Dimensions of Success Program Planning Tool*** (developed and distributed by the Program in Education, Afterschool and Resiliency, 2014).

Step 1: Set a time to meet with the staff member or volunteer that will be implementing the STEM activities. Email the participant with the logistics (time, place, duration) and a request that they identify a STEM activity that they would like to plan. Send the ***Dimensions of Success (DoS) Activity Logistics Form*** (Training Resource J) and ***DoS Activity Logistics Sample Answers*** document and ask the staff member to review them.

Step 2: Make copies of ***DoS Activity Logistics Form*** (Training Resource J).

Step 3: With the staff member or volunteer, go through the activity and answer the questions on the ***DoS Activity Logistics Form***. Encourage them to be as specific as possible when answering.

Step 4: Ask the staff person or volunteer what kind of support they will need. Who do they have to approach for support? How much time will they need to arrange logistics? What else will be involved?

Step 5: Encourage the staff person or volunteer to read the rest of the ***Dimensions of Success Program Planning Tool*** after the coaching session. Tell them you are available to answer any questions they may have after reading it.

Training Resource J

DoS Activity Logistics Form

(reproduced from the full DoS Program Planning Tool (p.18-19) found on the PEAR website:
<http://www.pearweb.org/tools/dos.html>).

While lesson plans can always look good on “paper,” it is important to think through all the possible logistical and pedagogical approaches of the activity so you can be sure that you are COMFORTABLE and PREPARED to make it a success, no matter what happens! And we all know, anything can happen the minute your students/participants walk in the door!

Find out what space you will be using for the activity—visit the space—does anything need to be re-arranged or moved?

Do you have all the materials you need and enough for each child (as well as extras)?

Try out experiments or use the materials beforehand.

If using technology, test all web-links, and make sure the internet connection is working fast enough that kids will be able to engage with the website.

How will students record their thoughts and developing ideas?

DoS Activity Logistics Sample Answers

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Find out what space you will be using for the activity—visit the space—does anything need to be re-arranged or moved?

Allocate enough time to do so. If you will be assigned a room that day, make a list of all the things you will need so you can quickly prepare the room.

Do you have all the materials you need and enough for each child (as well as extras)?

If you do not have access to enough materials, but still think the activity is worth doing, think of creative ways to organize and structure the activity so all students can still have access and can share the materials productively.

Try out experiments or use the materials beforehand.

This way you can anticipate issues that may arise—sometimes things don’t work as planned. As much as you can practice using the materials beforehand, the more comfortable you will be introducing these materials to students.

If using technology, test all web-links, and make sure the internet connection is working fast enough that kids will be able to engage with the website.

How will students record their thoughts and developing ideas?

Will you have group sense-making on chart paper or on a board, or will kids have individual data sheets? This is not school—kids do not need to have textbooks, notebooks, or “science folders,” necessarily, but when observing or testing, they need a way to record their thinking and to collect information.