



## Executive Functions in the Classroom

# TASK MONITOR

Task Monitor refers to the capacity to monitor our own problem-solving success and failures. Those with strong Task Monitor skills catch their mistakes.



Task Monitor is measured with items, such as “I don’t check my work for mistakes” and “I have problems completing my work.”

## How to help students who struggle...

Students who can task monitor are aware of when they are making errors as they work through problems. They know from previous experiences that things go better when they begin tasks early. They also know that checking over their work is an essential step in the process. Teachers can help by building systems of task monitoring (anchor charts for revision) and making those checks a regular part of the classroom experience. Young children often need extensive supports to understand what went wrong with their task. Teenagers and adults can usually monitor their progress in tasks to some degree. However, those with strong task monitoring skills are better equipped to engage in complex, detailed problem solving.

**Work together.** Praise students for completing tasks and engaging in proofing their work. Explain to students how being able to monitor goals leads to success. Model to students your strategies for monitoring tasks. Assist students in choosing manageable goals and helping them monitor their progress toward their goals. Have the student create subgoals for tasks. Make goals explicit and have the student check them off as they go. Provide many opportunities for students to monitor their progress toward goals with ongoing support.

Assign projects that include frameworks for planning and monitoring steps of the projects. Ask students to generate a list of ways that they can keep themselves motivated to completed and check their work.



Ask students to think about where they are working... Are they working in a place where they can focus? Provide students with an “Am I Done?” checklist. Seat students who have difficulty with someone who models task monitoring well.



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