

# STARTALK

## Principles for Effective Teaching & Learning

### Facilitating a Learner-Centered Classroom

Learners benefit from an environment in which teachers and learners collaborate as partners in the learning process. Teachers make instructional decisions based on learners' ages, interests, abilities, and needs. Teachers create multiple opportunities for learners to engage in real-world tasks in the target language that spark curiosity and invite inquiry. Teachers plan multiple opportunities for learner-to-learner interaction, enabling learners to collaborate and communicate about topics that are meaningful to them.

#### Learner Experiences & Teacher Responsibilities

The identified learner experiences are possible because of the work done by the teacher. The corresponding teacher responsibilities provide guidance for the teacher by indicating key criteria from the Teacher Effectiveness for Language Learning (TELL) Framework.

- **Learners use the lesson can-do statements to identify what they will be able to do at the end of each learning episode.**

The teacher shares learning targets in student-friendly language. *TELL Learning Experience: LE2.a*

- **Learners engage in activities within the range of their abilities and have some choice in how they learn and demonstrate their learning.**

The teacher plans lessons that address the unique needs and interests of the students. *TELL Planning: PL3*

- **Learners collaborate using language to accomplish cognitively engaging tasks that are meaningful and interesting to them.**

The teacher plans activities designed to keep all students engaged all the time. *TELL Planning: PL8*

- **Learners interact with other learners and speakers of the language, creating a balance between learner-to-learner communication and teacher talk.**

The teacher consciously monitors teacher talk in order to maximize student opportunities to produce language. *TELL Learning Experience: LE4.e*

- **Learners engage in activities that gradually enable them to individually meet the lesson can-do statements.**

The teacher plans activities for students to produce language within the range of their proficiency targets. *TELL Planning: PL7.b*



Explore the STARTALK Principles in action:  
[startalk.umd.edu/public/principles](http://startalk.umd.edu/public/principles)



NATIONAL FOREIGN  
LANGUAGE CENTER

STARTALK is a project of the National Foreign Language Center sponsored by the National Security Agency.  
© 2019 University of Maryland.  
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License.