



5 Tips for Adapting Choral Response to Distance Learning

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

One of the best ways to intensify intervention for students with word reading difficulties is to increase opportunities to respond. Utilizing choral response does just that but can be a challenge when teaching remotely. Depending on how many students you have online, differences in internet speed may cause response times to lag.

Try these tips to make choral response music to your ears:

1. Before you abandon traditional choral response, first test the response time of your group on your video conferencing platform. If you have a small group, everyone's timing may be close enough for you to stick with the tried and true. If that's the case, keep those mics unmuted!
2. If you have a larger group, you may need to mute their mics. If that's the case:
 - Model sounding out words to students by showing a word on your screen.
 - Point to the letters in the word with your cursor while speaking the sounds.
 - Then, invite students to sound out the word with you, even though they are muted.
 - Next, ask students to say the word on their own, even when muted.
3. Watch students' mouths move to determine if they're participating and how well they're learning the sounds.
4. Give feedback to students by repeating the word.
5. Then, unmute an individual student and have him or her read the word aloud.

Note that for review words, the teacher does not need to model sounding out and reading each word for the group. Instead, the teacher points to each sound in the word, asking the group to sound out the word, and then asks the group to say the word.

Group practice is completed with students muted. Follow group practice with individual turns, unmuting individual students to check for understanding.

[Watch Anita Archer model this technique.](#)



Get More Advice for Supporting Students with Word Reading Difficulties

Visit 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.