

THE IMPACT OF TIME ON TASK IN CURRICULUM COVERAGE

Hello again, Maxwell here. Hope you are all keeping safe and healthy! Here is my next idea for you to help your teachers cover the curriculum.

Idea 6: Time on Task in Curriculum Coverage.

- Time on task is counted among one of the most important factors affecting learning and achievement. It can briefly be defined as the amount of time a class spends in quality instruction.
- To try and cover time lost due to the COVID-19, teachers may be tempted to just lecture in a hurry rather than analyse the content and use the teaching aids available at school. They may even omit parts of the prescribed curricula in their haste of covering the content.
- We also need to be reminded that it is not only how much time is spent on learning activities and whether the prescribed content was covered; but also, what the quality of the coverage was. This means that learners should have developed a deep understanding of the subject at the appropriate level.
- All of us should be reminded that the time when we are away from school on official business, while essential, could have a negative impact on teaching and learning activities. The impact is higher in smaller schools which are more under-resourced; thereby further disadvantaging learners who most need quality learning to escape poverty.
- Having well-developed plans has now become more important than ever before.

Former President, Jacob Zuma, in his State of the Nation address on 3 June 2009, mentioned these as non-negotiables: “Teachers should be **in school, in class, on time, teaching** The children should **be in class, on time, learning...**”