

## Independent Learning Skills - Observation List

Kesten (1987): "Independent Learning [is] defined as that learning in which the learner, in conjunction with relevant others, can make the decisions necessary to meet the learners' own learning needs. These decisions ought to be made within the bounds of social acceptability and by self-directed, self-motivated, willing learners...Independent learners accept responsibilities and standards as well as understand the limitations imposed by available resources, prior knowledge, level of development as well as their personal skills, disposition and abilities."

Below are a few ways that a teacher could show or address the development of independent learning:

### Self-Regulation -

- Setting Goals
- Self-Assessing/Evaluating
- Helps kids practice time management (i.e. helping them to develop a calendar or schedule)
- Helps the students check that they have achieved the objectives

### Cooperation

- Gives students structured opportunities to work in groups

### Organization

- Creating a clear work flow
- Addressing what should be on desk and what should be put away
- Checking for materials

### Intellectual Risk-taking

- Giving the opportunity to try (and fail)
- Giving the students opportunities to raise questions related to the topic
- Praising Risks

### Metacognition

- Expanding the use of a strategy or skill by explaining its application
- Ask kids to self or group select learning strategies or activities
- Helps kids internalize the scoring systems and expectations
- Helps kids the objectives and purposes to the lesson

### Independence

- Gives students controlled space to work and seek teacher guidance on an individual level
- Helps and promotes the practices of informed decision making
- Empowers students with resources to seek further support or explore a topic more

### Global Citizenship

- Connects topic to larger world events or situations
- Has students consider the impact something would have on the world
- Relates personal actions to global affects
- Helps students comprehend global relationships
- Fosters the contribution to a global community

Other Observations: