

10. Catch yourself before you correct your students' work. Don't cover for them.

This is about their skills. . . not yours.

11. Commit to no intervention for a whole activity. Take data instead. Things might not fall apart as much as you had expected.

12. "What page are we on?" "What's for lunch?" Have students ask their classmates instead of you, both during school and on the telephone.

13. Assign student learning partners and sighted guides.

14. Teach students to decline assistance, "Thanks, but please let me try it by myself."

15. Whenever you add prompts, include a plan to phase them out.

16. Let the boss know that you need to step back so that your students can be more independent. You're not shirking your responsibilities.

17. Collaborate with other adult to break your habits of helping too much. Agree to remind each other to step back.

18. Try helping only when classroom teachers give you a signal. They may prefer to respond directly, or to give students longer to work it out alone.

19. Post a sign, "Are there any other ways I could step back?"

-Adapted from *Classroom Collaboration*, by Laurel J. Hudson, Ph.D.

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