Blending home and school learning

## Hacks to deliver the best experience

### Early stage one and stage one video transcript

#### Part One

Hi, welcome to Blending home and school learning: hacks to deliver the best experience. My name is Aimee Phillips. I am a primary teacher and a Digital Classroom Officer working with the Technology for learning team here in the New South Wales Department of Education.

This resource has been put together to help you facilitate a learning environment across two different platforms. Here in the physical classroom environment as well as a simultaneous learning environment for students that might be at home doing some online learning. This resource has been put together to ensure that you feel confident in delivering across these platforms. The resource has been split into three parts. Part 1 will talk about the preparation. Part 2 will look at how we deliver an actual lesson online here in the classroom as well, and Part 3 will look at assessment and feedback.

You're currently watching Part 1. Part 1 is going to go in depth around the preparation. You need to start thinking about in order to get this environment up and running. Part 2 is looking at the physical space and Part 3 in this resource will look at the technology that you need to set up to ensure you feel nice and confident. So let's get started thinking about four different things. You are going to look at when you're looking at preparation. The first thing is thinking about school preparation on a whole school level, and this might be talking to your Principal, and executive staff about how this looks across the school. You might be thinking about things like timetabling and making sure interruptions don't happen for teachers who are delivering lessons, you might also start thinking about things like co-teaching and how your support staff like EALD teachers support teachers and your librarian can help facilitate this co-teaching environment or help here in the physical environment as well. This might also look like coordinating with your ICT or computer coordinator to help you set up a classroom environment that mirrors the technology you need to set up and feel comfortable here in the physical space.

#### Parent communication

The next thing you need to start thinking about is parent communication. It's essential that you communicate with parents at all times during these phases to ensure that your parents understand what is happening here at school and what to expect at home. This might include things like timetabling and letting parents know when these live lessons are going online, how they can access resources, and how they can communicate back to you as the teacher. You might also start thinking about preparing your communication out to guardians and parents that might look like what their space will look like at home, so this could include things like ensuring that the study or computer area is quiet and peaceful for students to learn.

#### Technology preparation

The third thing you might talk about is your tech preparation, and this is essential for teachers here at school to ensure that they feel comfortable with what they're using. It's essential your school discusses a platform that all school is going to use. This could include looking at some of the PL that's available for you across some of the VC platforms that are available through Technology for Learning, so it might include things like webinars or information around how you can deliver Microsoft Teams, Google Classroom or Zoom here at school as well as online. Some of the other things you might like to think about in your tech prep is the physical prep that you're going to be using around the technology, so this could include looking at the types of laptops or devices that your teachers are going to be using here in the classroom. Things like a board like I'm using today and MLD, or an interactive projector. Something like a headphone, an audio test so that you know that teachers can be looking at how to connect their audio essentially and correctly to make sure that the learning experience for online users is equitable. In Tech Prep it is essential that all of the students understand their passwords, logins, and platforms. This should be communicated out prior to starting off lessons. Another thing to consider is Wi-Fi connection and to make sure that that is smooth and up and running here in the classroom at school as well as at home, you might look at some other resources to help support students that might not necessarily have access to online learning all day every day.

#### Resources

The final thing you might be starting to think about is resources. Lots of lessons here in the primary setting include concrete resources. It is essential you communicate out the resources that you're going to be needing to use in each lesson, and this should happen prior to the lessons starting. For example, in today's lesson, we're going to be looking at mathematics. We're going to be using some concrete materials. I would communicate that home to parents to ensure that they have the lesson materials they need. And get creative. Think about what students can use at home. They might not necessarily have the resources that they normally have at school, but things that they could be using in the kitchen or even with their toys and things like that could be used in the lesson.

#### Classroom setup

The next thing we're going to talk about is the setup of the classroom so you can see here I am standing in an infant's room and this is where we would look at the physical set up of what this looks like. We want to keep this consistent to the learners who are going to be coming in and out of the classroom. We don't want to play too much around with the aesthetics so that kids don't feel unfamiliar with what they're learning here at school. This is why I would keep my normal setup. I'd be using my normal teacher chair. I'd be using things like the dots you can see here on the floor to space students out if need be. And I've been making sure that I can easily access some of the resources throughout the classroom. We need to keep this realistic and we want to keep our learning consistent. This isn't a change you're going to teach how you've always taught. The next thing in setting up the physical space is looking at where my laptop is going to be, or my iPad if i'm using one of those for today's lesson, and that's looking at something like a camera view, you're going to be making sure that your front on to the students here in your classroom, as well as making sure that you are setting up so that your students online can see you. Again, this is about creating equity. Think about whether your right hand or left handed teacher what's going to happen when you turn your back to the board. Is your back going to be facing the camera, or are you going to make sure that your front on at the same time, usually if you're a right handed teacher, make sure that your computer set up on the opposite side. Have that computer easily accessible. I know in an early learning classroom we're going to be moving around a lot. We're going to be using things like Jelly Bean tables and making sure that we set up on the floor, so I want to make sure that chords and things like that are tucked away so I don't have anybody tripping or teachers tripping who are coming into the classroom. And I'm going to bring that resource with me.

#### Technology setup

Finally, we've got this setup of our tech, and just like we touched on this is critical to make sure teachers feel confident in delivering online. This is where we want to talk through some of the elements that are critical in making short lessons online runs smoothly. This could be investing in things like headsets to make sure that you can hear effectively. Having yourself tethered to a computer is probably not always a good idea because you are going to be moving around a lot like it would be normally in your teaching space, making sure that your audio is clear and this is a perfect opportunity to work with the teacher next door and test this out. Run an example classroom and get your teacher in to have a look at the lesson and talk through what students are viewing and experiencing.

This is essential to equity and making sure that your students online accessing the learning as your students are here at school. You might also want to look at the setup of what your students are seeing on the board and at home, and this could be investing in some professional learning around screen sharing and platforms you want to make sure the experience is authentic for all involved. The next thing is talking about your platform. Obviously, like we said, there is an array of platforms you could be using and we want to make sure that you're using the platform that's comfortable for you, the school and of course the learners at home, so make sure you're starting to think about some professional learning around some of these platforms that are rolling out for video conferencing. This could include looking at things like zoom, Microsoft Teams, and Google classroom. If you think specifically about learners here in the early space will be looking at something that's easy for kids to drop in and drop out. We don't want to embed lots of work on to Google classroom where we are asking parents to find access to those kinds of things, so something like zoom would be perfect because we'd be getting our kids up on screen, checking in, and consistently referring to that wellbeing practice like you would here in the classroom. We want to make sure that our technology is comfortable and uses the best experience for our students online, our parents at home who is supporting them and for our teachers here at school. In summary, I hope you thought about some of the things that will help you prepare the classroom space. Don't forget, this is about making the resources and learning equitable for your learners online and here at school and making sure you as a teacher feel comfortable in delivering this. Join us for Part 2 when we're going to be looking at how to deliver the lesson online here at school in the classroom as well as online.