

Tips for a Successful Classroom Visit

- Be on time!
- Introduce yourself.
- Every group has a different “energy,” from the curious and energetic to mellow. Develop a rapport with the group.
- Encourage questions. Remember there are no stupid questions!
- Ask questions of the students to find out what they know. Some may know nothing about the topic while others may know more than you’d expect. If you don’t ask – you could wind up talking down to them or using terms they don’t understand.
- Kids want to learn – really! All you need to do is harness their natural curiosity by means of activities and guided questions.
- Let the kids direct their own discoveries. Find a balance between being spontaneous and having things planned. Have some engaging activities planned, but don’t closely control what or how they experience.
- Kids need structure, but they don’t want to feel controlled. Set boundaries by asking questions or helping them understand the purpose of the activity, but then give them leeway to explore.
- Stay relaxed and keep smiling – this is going to be fun! Remember you are not the teacher but a “guest star.” The classroom teacher should remain in the room to provide discipline and assist with logistics.
- Have enough materials/hand-outs for every student. Ask the teacher if it’s o.k. for you to give hand-out directly to the students. Many teachers like to wait until the end of the day to pass out materials or place them in the students’ folders.