



Using the 'F-Words' for Child Development Tips for Educators in Your Class

FUN:

- Use the [F-words collage](#) or the [F-words profile](#) as an in-class activity! Have everyone in the classroom (including yourself) complete a collage and display them around the class. This is a great way to learn about what your students enjoy and what is important to them!
- Make curriculum come alive with experiential, hands-on class activities! Research says students remember 20% of what they hear, 50% of what they read, and 75% of what they DO!

FRIENDS:

- Encourage participation of all students in classroom activities. Collaborative activities rather than competitive activities can engage everyone.
- Encourage collaboration with peers through intentional partnering, small-group learning circles. [TRIBES Learning Community offers some great resources on supporting friendships.](#)

FAMILY:

- Always acknowledge parents' expertise on their child! Listen to reports of their child's capacity to help you make informed decisions.
- Newsletters, parent-teacher meetings, feedback prior to report cards and notes home in their agendas are great ways to communicate with parents regularly.

FITNESS:

- All students will benefit from doing active learning activities like *4 corners*, *Think-pair-share*, *Walk and Talks*, and *outdoor classes* - activities that get them both thinking and moving.
- Use inclusive physical activities to ensure all students can participate. [Heartland Area Education Agency](#) provides adapted versions of various games.

FUNCTION:

- Try to avoid the trap of 'normality' and instead celebrate student 'diversity' and achievement.
- Remember each child is unique and will require different accommodations. Use instructional, environmental, and assessment accommodations to help ensure inclusive education.

FUTURE:

- Use the [F-words goal sheet](#) with a child and the child's family to develop school-based goals that they hope to accomplish.
- Transition planning is important for preparing students for the next steps. Start talking about the future early and take a life-course approach to child development.

For more information please visit: <http://www.canchild.ca/f-words>