

# ZERO PERIOD : CHECKLIST

GOING BACK TO GO FORWARD

“Hi there, I’m excited that you are eager to further enhance the teaching learning process in your ecosystem and are planning to try out the Zero Period process for yourself! I hope you found value in and have enjoyed going through the pack and resources so far.

I invite you to use this quick at a glance checklist as a reference to ensure that you do not miss out on each of the ingredients! It’s really very simple to execute, and here are some things that I keep in mind during the process. **Feel free to innovate, translate and implement the way you want. And I would love to know how you have done it. Share your experience.”**

- Prasmi P.R.

## BEFORE

- Before planning a Zero Period make sure that **Repair** from the previous month (*implementation of the identified action points*) is complete so that students are ready to take the next steps.
- Always decide on a day to schedule the Zero Period session either at the beginning or end of the month. Plan a **complete session** of at least **40 minutes** to have enough time for a meaningful review with students.
- Ensure that you prepare and carry the following with you while conducting a Zero Period:
  - **calendar** for dates;
  - **planner** to refer to the content covered; and
  - **notes / remarks** about students in terms of their skills and attitudes noticed during the month.
- Before every session **revisit the purpose** of the Zero Period and help the students to understand the relevance of Zero Period **and why it is of value** for both the student and the teacher. Establish how the **pause time** will help in reflecting on the journey of the last month and accordingly **co-create** the plan for the coming month.
- Co-create** with students, the **criteria** and the aspects of both **content and character** that would be looked at during the Zero Period.

## **DURING**

On the day of the Zero Period, prepare the board and be ready with the different coloured markers or chinks before the children come in. Keeping in mind both the **Content and Character** cover the following during the Zero Period:

- **Recall concepts** – Begin with asking the students to share various concepts covered during the month which can be simultaneously listed on the board. Revisit the **listed concepts** to take stock of which ones were understood well and which need to be repaired. If 60% or more of the students are not comfortable with a particular concept, then flag it for **re-teaching** using a **different method or Language of Learning**.
- **Languages of Learning (LOL)** – List out the LOLs used for learning the various concepts and take **feedback** to understand which ones the students enjoyed the most and which didn't work. Encourage the students to suggest how the sessions could be made more effective and what could be worked upon by the teacher and by them as learners. Draw from this to **select** the ones that would **resonate well** with the children in the **coming month**.
- **Character piece** – Encourage children to pause and reflect on how their attitudes and behaviours have been through the month, for instance in terms of being **respectful**, expressing **gratitude**, **listening** attentively, stretching to put in the **extra rigour**, etc. Another introspection that they can engage in is to see if they have **added value** by mentoring peers, submitting home work on time and respecting resources. The various aspects of the **socio-emotional journey** during the month are also identified, discussed and illustrated on the board. This helps to reiterate the fact that learning is not just about content but also about **growing as an individual**.
- Make it a celebration time by inviting the class to give **shout-outs** for each other specifically appreciating the value added by their peers. This reflection helps children to identify the **attitudes and skills** that they have to continue to build in the next month.
- While Closing the Loop for the session, re-iterate the key **takeaways** of the session and go over the plan for the coming month with the students in terms of **learning content, skills and opportunities** for value addition.

## **AFTER**

- Re-teach the sessions that were identified during the Zero Period and / or **share some resources** (*reading material or videos*) as weekend BA.
- Keep going back to the **character piece** and help children to stay aligned to the **attitudes and behaviours** they have chosen to strengthen through the month.

## **SOME IMPORTANT TIPS**

- Be ready with **prompts and questions** to initiate the reflection process and encourage the students to share openly without hesitation. Ensure that their inputs are **not judged** by peers or others present.
- Transfer the **ownership** to the children for participating wholeheartedly in the process of their own learning and **taking onus** for its effectiveness towards their **growth**.
- Be mindful of making note of the required **pacing** of the content, **kind of LOL's** that work effectively with the students and to include a variety to cater to the different inclinations of students.
- The charting of the character journey of the students can be a **daily process** when the students **write their diary** by reflecting on their **learning and struggles** in content and character.
- At times, there might be some students who **need more time** to think through for repair. **Factoring it separately** at the end of zero session would help the student as well as the class to keep a comfortable pace.