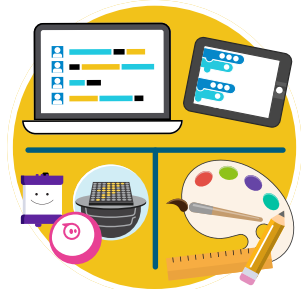# Sphero classroom management in a socially distanced learning environment

While there is no precedent for a socially distanced learning environment, Sphero has put together some tips and tricks to keep students engaged, focused, and learning new skills safely and effectively in this new context. Whether students are programming RVR or creating with littleBits, we hope these tips help your classroom find success during this socially distanced learning journey!

1. **Six-foot physical distancing.** Prior to beginning a Sphero activity, you can run **Sphero's Six Feet Apart program** with a robot and mark the floor with tape each time the robot stops to indicate a six foot distance. Direct each student or group to one of the marked locations.

2. **Minimization of student contact** with shared surfaces and objects. Keep robots and littleBits in designated areas of the room and have students take turns retrieving tools.

    - Ensure robots are fully charged before getting started

    - Thoroughly sanitize products after each use by following our step-by-step **guide to cleaning Sphero and littleBits products**.

3. **Structure collaborative learning.** Break students up into small groups and delegate students to distinct, rotating roles. Students can take turns programming the robots by connecting and disconnecting their individual devices to the robot via Bluetooth.

    - **Connecting:** Open the Sphero Edu app and find the 'Connect Robot' button. Hold the robot next to the programming device and select your robot type. Select your robot once it appears. If you have more than one robot nearby, the robot closest is typically the first robot in the list.

    - **Disconnecting:** To disconnect, students should close out of the app and allow the next student to connect.

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4. Slow down. Give students guidelines around the speeds that they should use for Sphero robots. Slower speeds will result in less crashes and robots on the loose! You can also stagger time windows for each group or student to run their respective programs.

5. Encourage collaboration through online tools. Sphero Edu activities are designed to be self-guided. Through the Sphero Edu app, you can assign an activity to an individual student, to a group of students, or to an entire class. Encourage students to collaborate through online tools such as Google Docs to communicate and share ideas. Students can also attach their program to the Gallery at the end of an activity to share it with classmates.

6. littleBits hybrid lessons. Download the littleBits Fuse app onto compatible devices. Have your students build and prototype their littleBits circuits on the app before taking turns building with the physical Bits.

Community Forum

We'd love to hear from you! What practices work best for teaching and learning with Sphero in your learning space? Be sure to share your strategies with our community!

Sphero Forum

littleBits Forum

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