

Skill-Building Exemplar



Who We Are & What We Do

OKO is an AI-powered platform that unlocks the power of small group learning for elementary and middle school students. We believe collaboration is essential for both cognitive and non-cognitive growth, yet many teachers struggle to implement effective small group instruction due to limited time and resources. OKO acts as an intelligent small group assistant by guiding students through engaging collaborative activities, providing personalized support, and freeing up teachers to focus their attention wherever it's needed most. Our goal is to make high-quality differentiated instruction both accessible and engaging, fostering academic achievement and essential collaboration skills for every student.

How We Think About Skill-Building in Our Design Process

At OKO Labs, the **Skill-Building** principle is central to our design process. We believe that AI should enhance, not replace, uniquely human skills. Furthermore, we recognize the importance of centering the voices and experiences of both educators and students in shaping OKO's development. Through ongoing co-design and playtesting activities, we partner with teachers and learners to ensure that OKO is both engaging and effective in meeting their needs. We intentionally design OKO's collaborative games and AI-powered facilitation to promote:

- **Critical Thinking:** Students analyze problems, explain their reasoning, justify solutions, and evaluate different approaches within their groups.
- **Creativity:** OKO presents challenging problems, offers hints and scaffolds that encourage exploration and discourse, and celebrates diverse problem-solving strategies
- **Collaboration:** OKO structures and supports collaborative activities, which promotes equitable participation, turn-taking, respectful communication, and shared problem-solving. While OKO facilitates the activities, the heart of the experience is the human connection between students as they work together, learn from each other, and build a sense of community.



Why **Skill-Building** Is Important in Our Product

At OKO, we know that learning is not just about acquiring knowledge; it's about developing durable skills needed to thrive in a collaborative world. By centering the **Skill-Building** principle, we ensure that students are not passive recipients but active participants in critical thinking, problem-solving, and meaningful collaboration. This holistic approach prepares students for success in school and beyond, fostering essential non-cognitive skills alongside academic growth.

"The kids are excited about it! They want to continue doing math with OKO because it's collaborative and fun. I like that OKO is encouraging behaviors like teamwork that will lead to better math outcomes, but they're also the behaviors that will lead to better life outcomes."

— Sally Hubbard, 6th grade math and science lead, Westlake Charter School