

LANGUAGE

App available in 35 languages

TARGET

Ages 5-18

AIMS

- > Real-time assessment data collection
- > Easily manage reporting and communication with parents

MATERIALSClassDojo App, downloadable from www.classdojo.com

APP REVIEW: THE BENEFITS OF USING CLASSDOJO FOR ASSESSMENT DATA COLLECTION IN THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE CLASSROOM

ClassDojo is a free tool for teachers with numerous functions that encourage active involvement of learners and parents. Teachers can record notes on learners, keep in touch with parents, document daily activities and motivate learners. Caleb Howard describes how he is successfully using this tool to motivate and assess his learners.

● Caleb Howard | Vineland, NJ, USA

has been an elementary school Spanish teacher in New Jersey, USA since 2004. To keep his patience level high (and to remind him that language learning is hard), he tries to always be practicing a new foreign language. He grew up living in Ecuador and Costa Rica and completed undergraduate study at Houghton College in New York, USA. Every year he teaches over 600 students.



ClassDojo....My students love it and it's made my life, as a foreign language teacher, a lot easier. It allows me to...

- > ...save time,
- > motivate students and
- > record assessment data...

...without having to pay anything.

It's easy to do with a free app from Class-Dojo.com. It works by allowing teachers to award and deduct points based on student performance in the classroom.

Why do STUDENTS love it?

1. It's **attractive**. Great layout. Eye-catching design.
2. It's **personal**. Student names are next to their avatar/character. Students and their parents can review their progress anytime and anywhere.
3. It's **customizable**. Teachers can allow students to choose whatever avatar they would like.
4. It's **engaging**. Students can watch their progress and track their performance. Sound effects keep the students engaged. The random-student-picker keeps students paying attention.

Why does their TEACHER love it?

1. It's **versatile**. Since it's web-based you can access the program anywhere you can access the internet. Keep points private by only accessing it with your phone/tablet. Make it public by projecting points in front of the class to add a competitive dynamic. Students can compete to see whose avatar receives the most points. Some teachers offer awards for point accumulation.
2. **Quickly record assessment data**. Since positive and negative points are customizable, you can give a point for anything. For example, during (or immediately after) a student's oral presentation, you can use your device/computer to award pre-assigned, customizable points based on your assessment rubric. In a matter of seconds you can
 - > click the student's name/avatar.
 - > click 4 points, 3 points, 2 points or 1 point based on things like how intelligible/fluent the presentation was or based on how many target vocabulary words were used.

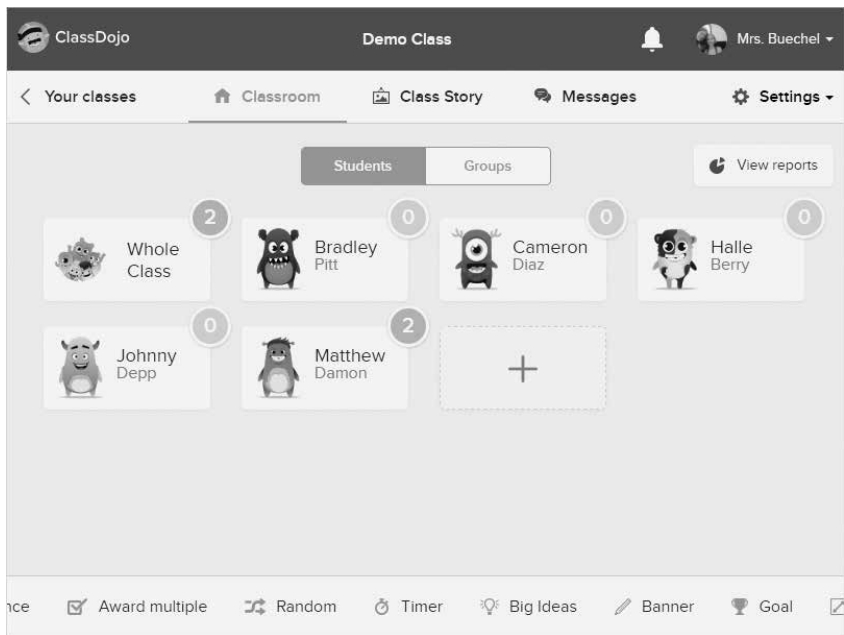
➤ PIÙ ARTICOLI SU QUESTO TEMA:
WWW.BABYLONIA.CH >
ARCHIVIO TEMATICO > [SCHEDE 6 E 3](#)

If you wish, you can attach personalized comments or notes to any piece of assessment data you enter. The information is automatically stored, time-stamped and, by clicking 'Reports,' you can review the data whenever you're ready to formally report grades. (Note: I don't use ClassDojo for ALL assessment data collection. Generally I keep written assignments separate and save ClassDojo for oral performance tasks. Lesson Note is another noteworthy, free app for managing interpersonal mode performance assessments.)

3. **Randomly choose students to participate.** No one feels like the teacher is singling them out or playing favorites. It motivates students to be prepared to give an answer at any time. Use this function as much or as little as you'd like.

4. **Effectively redirect off-task behavior.** Even if you're staying in the target language with novice students, they will understand when they're doing something right or wrong because of ClassDojo.com's sound effects. Give students extra incentive to stay on task by connecting parents (in seconds) to the ClassDojo account.

5. **Consistently and manageably award exemplary behavior.** Generally, I give points to students every time they use the target language as a way to motivate them and track their participation. Since the points are customizable you could award points for anything including, pronunciation, fluency, ability to improvise, etc.



The interface of ClassDojo.

Need lesson ideas for what you can do with ClassDojo.com in your foreign language classroom?

Visit my 'Tips For Staying In The Target Language' blog (www.SenorHoward.com/blog) and type 'ClassDojo' in the search bar.

3 Questions to Caleb Howard about ICT and Teaching

Babylonia: *Señor Howard, do kids bring their cell phones to class?*

Caleb Howard: My students are too young for cell phones still. Also, I don't see that cell phone use would be necessary for ClassDojo. It would be something that students and their parents access outside of school hours to monitor progress/performance.

B: *Would you say that the kids are using it as well for the board functions/posting homework/study tips and such?*

CH: Regarding...board functions...I'm not familiar with that term. I don't think ClassDojo does anything with posting homework or study tips. I use Google Classroom for that. (That would be good content for another article/topic :) There are other apps out there, like Class123 which offer board functions, but then they are perhaps lacking a function ClassDojo has.

B: *Do the kids know when you are using the randomizer (so do you use this function all the time or for specific activities -do you announce it)? Do you record whether the kids knew the answer/could respond? If so, can the kids see this and then in your experience, are they motivated not to let it happen again if they could not respond?*

CH: Usually if I randomly choose a student and they don't know the answer...I stick with them and scaffold and give them cues until they get it. I never take away a point for students not knowing an answer. ...although I DO TAKE AWAY points all the time for students that aren't paying attention...or for students that make a peer feel embarrassed for trying/participating.