Ask 3 Before Me is a strategy teachers can use when conducting small groups or during individualized instruction by having students ask up to 3 peers for help prior to asking the teacher. This learning plan will enhance instruction by encouraging students to take more ownership of their learning while minimizing the number of times the teacher is interrupted.

Introduce students to Ask 3 Before Me by explaining that sometimes support is needed. Students will be taught to seek help from up to 3 peers before asking their teacher. This strategy is meant to be utilized on questions pertaining to their assigned work only and not on questions related to safety or on personal matters. The goal is to utilize this practice in situations when a teacher is wanting uninterrupted work time with a small group of students while the other students are expected to work independently or in other small groups. Students can learn problem-solving, communication, and collaboration skills using this strategy.

*Adaptation- For some classes if asking 3 is too challenging to maintain, the teacher may need to scaffold this activity by starting with asking 1 friend.*
Model/Demonstrate with Examples
Brainstorm with students a list of different scenarios in which they may need to ask for help (Ex: solving a math problem, reading, clarification on directions, reminder of what to do when my pencil breaks). Then, model for students by asking individuals to help with different scenarios. For example, “Jamal, can you remind me what we are supposed to do when we are finished?”

Practice in All Relevant Settings
Practice using different scenarios during small group work time. For example, put some example questions in a bowl and have a random student pick a question to ask three peers. Make sure the teacher specifies what voice level to use when asking a peer, a question. After teaching and practicing, it may be helpful to prompt students with reminders before small group activities.

Monitor & Provide Positive Feedback and Reinforcement
Teachers can provide students with behavior specific praise when they ask three peers prior to asking the teacher. Praise should also be offered during practice time to help reinforce the routine. “Karla, thank you for asking Emily, Tonio, and Destiny for help when you got stuck. Great job!”

Based on Data, Adjust Instruction & Reteach
Teachers should monitor if students are not using this routine. If students forget, it may be time to reteach and increase praise to reestablish the classroom routine.

Evidence of Student Success
- 80% or more of students will ask up to 3 peers for help without any additional verbal or nonverbal prompting prior to asking the teacher working with a small group.

Student Learning Supports
- This is a universal lesson plan and an effective practice used for struggling students in the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) process.
- Some students may need additional support or scaffolding. Consider adapting for the individual needs of the student.

Engaging Families
- Explain and share the reason for Ask 3 Before Me with families so they can discuss with their students the importance and ensure students understand that their teacher wants them to learn skills like problem-solving, communication, and collaboration.