

GENERAL CLASSROOM STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR

ENVIRONMENTAL ARRANGEMENT

- Develop centers with boundaries
- Arrange furniture as to avoid long corridors, this will prevent running.
- Separate academic areas from areas where free play occurs
- Provide enough materials for the number of children permitted in each area
- Rotate toys and materials to reduce boredom

CLASSROOM RULES

- Posted
- Child friendly (use of pictures)
- Simple
- Positive
- Few in number
- Reviewed several times a day
- Referred to in the moment
- Applied consistently

EXAMPLES OF CLASSROOM RULES

- Keep hands and feet to self
- Walking feet in the classroom
- Use indoor voice
- Share toys and materials

SCHEDULE / ROUTINE

- A posted schedule that is child friendly
- Refer to posted schedule during transitions
- Use of transitional warnings
("When the timer goes off in 1 minute, it will be time to clean up.)
- Use of a time to indicate transition times
- Alternate long, active periods with short, quiet periods
- Alternate short, teacher-directed activities with long, child-initiated activities
- Plan what each adult will do during transition times
- Reduce length of transition time so that there is less waiting

LARGE GROUP INSTRUCTION

- Length should be short:
- 5-10 minutes for toddlers
- 10-15 minutes for preschoolers
- Some children only have the ability to sit for a couple of minutes and these children may require a different plan
- If possible, have additional teaching staff sit near students who are having difficulty
- Organize circle to promote participation and attending
- Use activities that engage all of the students
- Keep a quick pace
- Reinforce individual students frequently for attending

SMALL GROUP INSTRUCTION

- Activity should be organized into logical steps
- Materials for each step should be provided when the previous step has been completed
- Directions should be short and simple
- Develop activities that are hands-on
- Individualize based on children's skill level
- Individualize the activity based on student's interests

INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION

- Many children with behavioral or attention difficulties have more success while engaged in 1 on 1 instruction
- The best time to work on individual skills is during free play when you can pull them aside for 5-10 minutes

FREEPLAY

- Teachers should facilitate learning and social skills during free play
- Make sure all children have an opportunity to play in each center
- Have children plan their play
- Limit the number of children in each play area

OTHER SUGGESTIONS

- Utilize additional adults for students who require more individual attention (e.g., volunteers)
- Adults in the environment should play with children to facilitate learning
- Provide choices throughout the day
- Incorporate student interests into all activities
- Be flexible and have alternative activities available if children are not understanding or interested in the current activity
- Provide reminders of expectations prior to beginning a new activity