

# Fun Ways to Teach Kindergarten Classroom Routines

Education K-12

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As children transition out of the preschool environment and into the kindergarten year, they face new academic challenges that the early grade school period brings on. Kindergarten classrooms require a concrete structure that provides a routine that breeds predictability and takes the developmental needs of 5- and 6-year-olds into account. While schedules aren't always the most exciting part of a kindergartner's day, educators can make learning the classroom routine fun by using creative and engaging activities.

## Starting the Day Off

Don't wait until the students are well into their kindergarten day to start teaching them about the classroom routine. The educators at Scholastic Teachers note that young children may question what to do when they come into the classroom, making a morning routine a necessity. Instead of letting the kids question what they are supposed to do before the first bell rings, give them a visual list of your before-school expectations for their actions. For example, make a poster that lists simple words, such as lunchbox or backpack, with accompanying pictures. This will remind the students what to put away before school starts. Involve the students in this activity, encouraging them to draw their own posters that feature each step of the morning routine. Choose a different student's poster to display each morning, making that child the "star" for the day.

## Dress Rehearsal

Before a Broadway show the players all take turns rehearsing what they will do on stage. Take a cue from on-stage actors and have your own school day dress

rehearsal. According to Scholastic Teachers, rehearsing classroom procedures can help to turn them into regular routines. During the first few days of kindergarten do a run-through of transitions and step-by-step class activities. Make it fun by play acting that the children are rehearsing for a school play.

## **Super-Sized Sequences**

Instead of just saying that math comes after reading time, which comes after science, have your kindergarten students create life-sized pictures for each transition. Start the year off with a jumbo art activity in which each student traces another child onto a piece of butcher or rolled paper. Have the kindergartners decorate their body tracings in themes that match different school subjects and activities, making sure that there is at least one life-sized picture for each part of the schedule. For example, one child can draw herself wearing shorts and sneakers for physical education, and another can transform himself into an artist with a palette for art time. Hang the pictures in schedule order in the front of the classroom each day, alternating drawings so that everyone gets a turn.

## **Perfect Parrots**

Engage your kindergarten students in an interactive game of follow the leader to help instill the routine of the school day. At the beginning of the school year walk through the day (in a mini version), having the children follow as you lead. Line the children up and have them walk through a speedy daily schedule, such as the morning meeting, science, writing, math, art class and social studies. If the children need to move to another room for a special subject, like music or physical education, have them follow you to the other school space as well. Add a splash of creativity to the game by making silly movements, creeping like a turtle or hopping like a bunny.