

# Promoting Positive Behavior: Maximize Structure and Predictability

## Summary

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Highly structured classroom environments have a positive relationship with a variety of positive social and behavioral outcomes. One of the ways you can increase structure is to have set routines that students move through every day, so that students know what to expect and what is expected from them during their day. This lesson will give examples of common daily routines for you to consider incorporating into your classroom.

## Planning for Implementation

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### Collaboration Strategies

- Ask other teachers what kinds of structure they have built into their day. Do they have specific routines for greetings, transitions, or the end of class? Do students know them?

### Overcoming Barriers to Implementation

- The hardest part of building structure into your classroom will probably be having students do it enough times that it becomes routine for them, too. The first few weeks might be stressful as you may have to remind students what to do repeatedly, but they will settle into the new routine as long as your expectations are consistent.

### Implementation Strategies

- When you are adding a routine, either at the beginning of the year or partway through, it will be important to both tell and show students what to do, so that they fully understand what is expected of them. Teach them the new procedure and why it is important, model what it would look like, and then continue to reteach and praise expected behavior until it becomes a true routine for students.

## Additional Reading

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- Simonsen, B., Fairbanks, S., Briesch, A., Myers, D., & Sugai, G. (2008). Evidence-based Practices in Classroom Management: Considerations for Research to Practice. *Education and Treatment of Children*, 31(3), 351-380. Retrieved January 26, 2021, from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/42899983>

## Maximize Structure and Predictability

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Consider what routines are needed to begin, sustain, and terminate activities. For each item, decide if there is a need and a way to make that practice the same every day. If so, that could be one of your new classroom routines.

If students are entering your classroom, how should they do it?

How will you share news with students, tell them about the day's schedule, or assign a warm-up assignment?

What will the flow of activities be during your class period or day? Can you make a schedule?

Are there any materials students need to gather, prepare, or turn in?

How will you get students' attention when necessary?

What should students do while they wait for classmates to complete an activity after they have finished?

How will you let students know when you are switching to a new activity?

How should they clean up and prepare for each activity?

How will students keep track of their performance on their assignments?

How much time will you give students to clean up, put away materials, and get ready to leave?

What activity or class are students going to do next, and how can you prepare them for it?

How are students expected to leave the classroom and travel through the school?

