

Using Classroom Routines



- **Directly teach** all routines.
- **Encourage students to use self-talk** as they follow the routines.
- **Keep the routines short at first (one to three steps)** and gradually add extra steps.
- **Practise and reinforce routines frequently.** This is especially important at the beginning of the school year and when a new student joins the class. It may take between two and six weeks to learn new routines.
- **Generate checklists for specific routines.** Strategically post these step-by-step explanations around the classroom – in the coatroom, listening corner, reading centre, on the students' desks, bathroom or anywhere that one is needed.
- **Use correction, not consequences, when teaching routines.** Focus on guided practice and constructive feedback. Encourage and reinforce students when they complete routines successfully.

Types of Routines

Class Procedure

Class procedures may include how to talk with others positively, how to use unstructured time and expectations for behaviour and assignment completion. Make sure routines are simple and stated positively.

Personal Routines

Encourage students to develop their own routines. Help them develop sequentially ordered lists of activities and tasks they need to complete regularly; for example, getting ready to work, packing up homework, personal care routines, completing homework or job-related skills.

Schedules

Create charts that show the activities that are coming up during the day. Some students may wish to carry this chart with them.

- **Review routines to ensure that they are working and modify and/or change as needed.** Monitor behaviour regularly and look for ways to adjust and/or create routines that encourage and support positive behaviour and reduce problem behaviour.

