

After a long break, it's likely children and adults may forget some of the routines that make the school day go smoothly. To help with the transition of your classroom community back to school after an extended break, it may be important to re-teach or remind children of schedules, expectations, and routines. Adults should expect that children will **NOT** remember all of these things and should intentionally plan extra supports following a break. The longer the break, the more likely it is that children will need to be reminded of the routines and expectations. Children will also need time to reconnect with teachers and peers after time away from school. Make sure you are engaging in positive interactions with all children throughout the day to support their return to school and increase the likelihood that they will be successful.

Schedules

- ▶ Re-teach the schedule at the beginning of each day
- ▶ Note any changes in the schedule as a result of the break
- ▶ Refer to the schedule before and after activities throughout the day



Routines

- ▶ Re-teach steps of common routines
- ▶ Model and practice the steps
- ▶ Provide individual supports as needed
- ▶ Provide positive descriptive feedback to children when they follow the routines



Supportive Conversations

- ▶ Acknowledge children's communication to you
- ▶ Greet/call children by name
- ▶ Use a calm and positive tone
- ▶ Join in play and talk about their play (e.g. questions and comments)
- ▶ Support interactions between children in play



Expectations and Rules

- ▶ Re-teach the rules
- ▶ Provide children with opportunities to practice the rules
- ▶ Refer to rules throughout the day
- ▶ Give children positive feedback when they follow the rules
- ▶ Talk about how the rules link to the program-wide expectations (e.g., Be Safe and Be a Friend)



Positive Descriptive Feedback

Provide positive descriptive feedback to children when they

- ▶ ... follow a direction
- ▶ ...engage in activities
- ▶ ...transition appropriately
- ▶ ...follow the rules
- ▶ ...engage in friendship skills
- ▶ ...demonstrate desirable behaviors/actions/skills



Emotional Support

- ▶ Label and describe adult and child emotions throughout the day especially as they relate to returning to school
- ▶ Support children in talking about their own emotions
- ▶ Model and practice calm down strategies

