

Kindergarten

Setting up for success

Create a safe, supportive and inclusive classroom to promote a positive school experience.

Tips to help make school a happy place		
Greet each student by name	Prepare students for any foreseeable changes	Plan relationship-building games and activities
Focus on familiarising students with the class routines and expectations	Be calm and consistent	Actively encourage positive interactions between students
Remind students through the day what the next activity will be (after a while, ask them to tell you what comes next)	Build trust by always being reliable. For example, always follow through on promises	Create a “calm area” in the classroom with objects, prompts and activities that calm and comfort
Use visual timetables and prompts to clarify activities and chronology	Explicitly teach social skills	Analyse and understand the social dynamics in the classroom
Be clear and specific about daily times ('after lunch')	Notice and reinforce positive behaviours using explicit feedback and acknowledgement	Identify any students who may need assistance with social connections and help them to form friendships
Routines, processes, structures and systems are reassuring. They increase predictability and decrease anxiety	Suggest that parents leave the child with a positive picture of the day ahead. i.e. “After work, I will pick you up and then we will go to the shops on our way home”	Regularly share information with parents and let students see you building friendly relationships with their parents
Stick to normal routines as much as possible	Answer questions in simple and straightforward ways	Spend time getting to know each student
Encourage children and parents to develop a 'goodbye ritual' involving choices that give some control. i.e. “... one hug or two?”	Avoid parents “sneaking” away as this reinforces any fear of loss and/or lack of control the student may feel	Allow students to bring a comfort object from home such as a toy or photo