CONNECTIONS

The first step to a successful classroom is building connections:
• Connections with staff, family members, and students.
• We build connections through: eye contact, touch, presence, and a playful situation.
• Connections build cooperation, cooperation builds attention to task and engagement, attention to task and engagement build success!
• “Those who resist it the most need it the most.” Bailey, 2000
• We must follow student’s leads, and access connections in a way that they are comfortable with.

I’m Going to:

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

The keys to a productive environment are:
• Dividing the space into interest areas to encourage distinctive types of play.
• Choosing names for the interest areas that children can understand.
• Establishing visual boundaries.
• Planning for classroom storage needs.
• Planning for children and staff’s personal storage and ownership needs.
• Modifying materials to meet the needs of your students and tap into their strengths and interests.

I’m Going to:
CLASSROOM RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

The keys to effective classroom rules are... 
- Having 3 to 5 rules.
- Notice when children are following the rules—What you focus on you get more of!
- Visually posting rules and expectations.
- Children think in pictures until age 9.
- Visuals are a constant in an ever-changing world!
- They promote independence, decrease anxiety, and don’t distract from teaching time.

CLASSROOM SCHEDULES AND ROUTINES

The key to effective classroom schedules and routines are... 
- Thinking through classroom routines and transitions.
- Creating balance
- Using zoning to help staff know what they are responsible for and when.
- Having the students be a part of the schedule and routine to build confidence and independence.
- Make every moment a teachable opportunity.

REMEMBER: If there is a chaotic moment in your school day the routine needs to be retaught or restructured!

REFERENCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES


Early Childhood Academy and Trainings on Demand
more info: kansasasd.com

Pittsburg State University Early Childhood Autism Certificate
Contact- tswanson@pittstate.edu

More information about the strategies shared in today’s presentation considerateclassroom.blogspot.com