TEACHING ROUTINARY IN COVID19 PANDEMIC

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Teaching routinary is always important at the start of the school year. If you are returning to in-person teaching this year, you may be teaching routinary in a different way than you did before the coronavirus pandemic. If you are teaching online, almost all routinaries may be new for your students.

Some routines may stir up anxiety or emotions that can make it hard to teach and follow the routines. Supporting your students socially and emotionally during distance learning can make teaching less stressful. Adding an element of fun, like using games, rhymes or mnemonics, can make them easier to remember the lesson.

Many student who learn and think differently, they may find these skills challenging, including organization and planning, remembering multi-step directions, and staying on-task without getting distracted.

The steps below can serve as a guide.

1. Communicate with parent or guardian about new classroom routines.

Communicate with parents or guardian ahead of time to tell them what routines you’ll teach students. Not only will this keep the communication open, but it will also give parents or guardian the chance to practice those routines ahead of time.

Explain or demonstrate the routinary in the way students are expected to follow it. Show what you expect them to do and use clear, concise language to think aloud what you’re showing them.

3. Provide multiple ways to learn and remember.

Give student more than one way to remember the lessons after you teach it. Post a video of the lesson on the digital learning platform you are using or hang up the step-by-step directions with pictures or other visuals.

4. Give opportunities to practice.

Allow students to practice the new lessons in low-stakes situations. You can practice as a group or individually. These practice gives you a chance to make sure all students understand every step.

5. Allow for a learning curve.

Let your students know that this routinary is new for everybody, so it is important to give each other a little leeway. Talk to students what they can say to hold their classmates accountable for following safety routines without shaming them.

The key to teaching new routinary is using the same evidence-based practices you would use in teaching other skills. Learn more by doing:

- Read about explicit instruction
- Identify and proactive reduce the barriers to learning
- Use positive behavior strategies to support students in meeting expectations
- Build positive relationship with the parents or guardian
References: