

Routines

Education

The repeated procedures that make a room predictable and free attention.

Entry, materials, attention, transitions and packing away each deserve one.

1

Name the moment

One recurring point that costs time or attention in every lesson.

2

Explain the steps

Say what happens, in order, and why the routine exists at all.

3

Model both versions

Show it done properly, then show the version that fails.

4

Practise it

Rehearse until it runs without instruction. That takes several attempts.

5

Correct early

Address the first small deviation, not the fifth.

6

Reteach after breaks

Routines decay over a holiday. Assume they need rebuilding.

Routines reduce decisions. Every decision a pupil does not have to make is working memory left for the subject.