

Transitions

Education

The joins between activities, where most lost lesson time actually goes.

A transition is any change of activity, grouping, resource or location within a lesson. Each one costs time, attention and behaviour risk, and each is largely under the teacher's control.

- Six transitions at two minutes is 12 minutes a lesson.
- Attention has to be re-established after each one.
- Transitions are where off-task behaviour starts.
- Fewer, well-rehearsed transitions beat more, varied ones.
- Give the instruction before handing out materials.
- Time them and say the time aloud.

LOOK FOR IT

Materials distributed while instructions are given produces neither. Give the instruction, check it, then release the class to the resource.

Variety of activity is not itself evidence of a good lesson. Each change of activity has to buy more than the transition costs.