

Transition Tips Can Lead to Classroom Triumphs



Dr. Allison Blackburn

Dr. Allison Blackburn, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Behavioral Psychologist, at Cincinnati Children's, is partnering with PublicSchoolWORKS to provide useful information for K-12 staff. Here are tips for teachers and staff as students transition back to school.

① Establish consistent routines

- Use a picture or written schedule to alert them to the days' events
- Be clear about the expected behaviors in the classroom
- Have an established system for turning in homework

② Use reinforcement to shape the behaviors you want to see

- Decide in advance what the most important positive behaviors are that you want to encourage for your students
- Be precise with what specific behavior you are praising
- Provide feedback on appropriate behaviors at least three (3) times more frequently than inappropriate behaviors

③ Prepare for the unprepared

- Be equipped to address each individual child's needs as they arise
- Stockpile extra supplies and snacks
- Spend one on one time with the struggling student to identify their challenges
- Catch the warning signs early and refer to appropriate services — such as counseling

