

F.O.N.T

Focus On New Teachers

WELCOME TO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

Here Are Our Tips For New Teachers

Alright, take a deep breath, and just remember: You're human, and we all make mistakes.

1.) Plan for the year.

Sounds simple, right? Give yourself time to assess goals every week or two, and look at your master list of school year goals then. If you're not assessing progress on a regular interval, how can you know if you're truly an effective teacher?

2.) Be positive.

Believe us when we say we know how hard teaching can be! But we also know how important it is for teachers to stay positive to remain an inspiration to their students. Your students will also perform better when they are encouraged, and learn to recognize their strengths if you focus on them too, while still improving their weaker areas.

3.) Learn to balance your monitoring and direct teaching methods.

Your students will respond to different methods of learning, and they will need to learn how to work independently, in groups, one-on-one with you, and in other environments. When you design your monthly and year-long curriculum strategies, think about how you will mix it up, in regards to your teaching methods and styles.

4.) Practice sound classroom management skills.

It can be easy to get frustrated, or let your inner child out; especially when managing a classroom of children. No matter how grown and 'adult' we become, simple stress can make us stoop to a toddler's level. ***However, we cannot stress enough how important classroom management is!***

5.) Tap into your peers for knowledge and insight.

One of the best tips for beginning teachers: Communicate with faculty and participate in your school events to help out as much as you can. Schools need teachers for more than just their classroom skills. It can only benefit your career as well, and will give you insight into how your peers manage teaching!

6.) Address misbehavior as quickly and appropriately as possible.

The last thing you want to do is try to be the 'cool' teacher and let inappropriate behavior slide. This is one of the most critical tips for first year teachers. It sets a bad precedent and only prolongs the behavior until it escalates too far.

7.) Lighten up.

Another essential piece of advice for new educators: Even if you aren't a natural clown or comedian, you can still make learning enjoyable for your students, without completely losing your dignity.

8.) Set clear expectations with each assignment.

Make sure you review the goals of each new area of your curriculum and for each new assignment. When students have a direction to point their mind's compass, they can go into the lesson with a clear idea of how they should approach or absorb the information.

9.) Set rules for the classroom.

This can be effective for elementary, middle and high school students—especially if you set expectations early. When it comes to classroom rules, remember to keep them simple, and try to have fun with them.

10.) Acknowledge every student the first time you see them every day.

Yes, you read that right. Every student. Every day. From the first day of school to the last, let them know you're there.

11.) Be caring and empathetic.

No matter what age group you are teaching, students are going through mental growth that can be challenging and frustrating. Be sure to put yourself in their place when you approach your students, while you teach them, and especially if you must discipline them. They are counting on you to help them learn critical thinking skills, as well as interpersonal skills. When you show a child that you care about them and spend time understanding where they are coming from, then you will earn their respect. It will also help build trust, so they know they can come to you for help and mentorship, when they need it.

12.) Create a plan for parents.

This might be one of the hardest tips for first year teachers to execute – but absolutely necessary. Parents are sometimes the elephant in the room when it comes to effectively teaching children. You have hands-on parents and those you may only see at required meeting times.

13.) Teach respect and stress anti-bullying.

Remember when we said you should take care of discipline issues as soon as they arise to keep them from spiraling out of control? This advice for new educators takes that philosophy one step further. With so much time spent interacting with video games compared to humans, today's young learners need to practice mutual respect with their peers and teachers on a daily basis.

14.) Be mindful about sensitive topics.

You have to remember that children come from all walks of life and face many different challenges. Be sensitive and conscious of anything you might say that could alienate them or make them uncomfortable. This is another one of those tips for new teachers that will make a lasting impact in your students' lives.

15.) Go into it for the right reasons.

Since teaching is such an important, influential role in students' lives, you really need to go into this profession to change lives and inspire students. Become a teacher because you want to help kids reach their potential and believe in themselves.