



Visual Support Guide: Group Rules

What?

This visual support includes pictures of seven common rules in early learning environments. Each support has a picture and a short description written in simple, positive language that preschool children can understand. Using visual supports to remind children of rules helps create consistent and predictable learning environments.

What?

- Visual reminders of group rules help children learn and remember the rules.
- You can use rules in different ways.
 - Teach and remind children of social behaviors and rules they need to follow in the learning environment.
 - Provide extra support for a child who struggles to follow a rule or engage in positive social interactions.

How?

- Make classroom rules visual supports.
 - Decide which rules are important for your learning environment. Consider involving children in choosing the rules.
 - Select the pictures that represent the rules.
 - Attach the pictures onto a large piece of paper to create a chart.
 - Translate the rules into the languages spoken by the children in your learning environment, or make separate charts for each language.
- To use classroom rules visual supports.
 - Post the chart at children's eye level in several locations of the room.
 - Teach children the rules early in the school year.
 - Clearly explain each rule, using language children can understand. You can say, "In our classroom, we use our ears to listen" or "We touch our friends gently. We want to keep our friends safe."
 - Introduce each rule separately so children don't become overwhelmed with learning too many rules at once.
 - Ask children with language or communication delays or related challenges to repeat the rule or point to the corresponding picture to ensure comprehension.

- Teach the rules to children daily. Model behaviors and provide children with opportunities to practice. Provide intentional positive feedback when children follow the rules.
- Explain consequences of not following a rule. You can say, “We use walking feet. If you run, a teacher will remind you that running is for outside time. A teacher will also hold your hand and practice walking around the classroom with you.”
- Provide extra support for a child who has difficulty with social interactions ahead of time by reminding them of a rule or a positive behavior. You can also use visuals to redirect a child who is not using the expected behavior.

Group Rules

Ears Are Listening



Listening Friend



Raise a Quiet Hand



Snapping Fingers



Touch Gently



Quiet Mouth



Walking Feet

