

Schedules & Routines – Creating Visual Routines

Summary

What is a Visual Routine, anyway?

- A visual routine is a chronologically arranged set of images (e.g. photos) that represent different activities or events in a given routine.

What's the Point?

- Supports Trauma-Informed Care by nurturing a child's sense of safety and security
- Provides the predictability young children need to feel confident in their learning
- Helps children understand routines and expectations
- Provides information to children on what is happening
- Encourages participation in routines
- Promotes independence

How Do I Do This?

- Use clear images
- Make it durable (e.g. laminated, water resistant)
- Make it flexible to allow for change
- Have extra images
- Post at children's eye level
- Post in an accessible location

How Will the Children Participate in This Practice?

- Have conversations about the routine with children
- Children help determine the location
- Children have input into what images will look like
- Children may be depicted in the images

Checklist

<i>Task</i>	<i>Complete?</i>
Educator brainstorms aspects of the routine to be represented.	
Educator determines a location that is accessible and at children's eye level.	
Educator gathers images for each aspect of the routine.	
Educator gathers materials required (e.g. paper, glue, laminate, etc.).	
Educator saves a copy of images for replication as needed.	
Educator creates at least one copy of the visual routine for other environments (e.g. outdoors/gym/field trips).	
Visual routine is flexible (images can be moved around).	
Visuals are durable enough to tolerate daily use (e.g. poster board, laminated, etc.).	
Educator posts visual routine at children's eye level.	
Educator has involved team and children in all aspects of creation of visuals.	
Educator informs families of the creation of visuals, involving them as needed.	

When we inform children about the routine using pictures and print,
we respect their right to be informed about daily events.

Makovichuk, Hewes, Lirette & Thomas, 2014, p. 78

Flight: Alberta's early learning and care framework.

Retrieved from www.flightframework.ca

