



➤➤➤ Pre K Students—Tips For Success!

DID YOU KNOW



Students who are given the advantage of attending a pre-K program develop much needed emotional, academic, and social skills they may otherwise lack when entering kindergarten.

Pre-K is important because it provides a great foundation for kindergarten, it also exposes children to an educational environment.



As a Kelly® substitute, you may have occasion to accept an assignment for supervising or assisting in a preschool (Pre-K) environment. These 4-6 year olds require a bit more patience, a lot of repetition, and some consistency in their day. If you have not been around young children very much, or perhaps do not have young children of your own, working with them may be intimidating at first. The **good news** is that by applying some very basic concepts as outlined here, you—and your Pre K students—can experience a rewarding and positive day!

1. START THE DAY RIGHT

One of the best ways to manage your Pre K class is having a good entry procedure. Standing tall at the door, greeting each child, and having clear expectations for what kids do when they're in your classroom (put their backpack and coat in their cubbies, choose a book, sit at their seat) is one way to start the morning. While this applies to students of any age, it is particularly helpful for the younger set.

2. KEEP THEM ACTIVE

Pre-kindergartners need to move (a lot). So one of our biggest tips for pre-K is to let them wiggle! Incorporate movement into your daily routine, like calendar time. As an example, have students jump for each day of the month they count, or have gestures to show the weather (rain movements if it's raining), etc. Their attention spans are short and they can get distracted easily. Simple basic things like announcing what day it is can be made fun and interactive!

3. USE THE 2 MINUTE RULE

Plan lessons that match your students' short attention spans. Remember, you've got two minutes, then move. Pre-K students can't be expected to sit and listen for long. Pre K children need constant direction and reminders about what they

are supposed to do, how they are supposed to act, etc. Let them know expectations. ("Now, we're going to get ready to move over to the art area for a class project. When I say the magic word, I want you to....")

4. TEACH CONCEPTS MULTIPLE WAYS

Pre-kindergartners are figuring out *how* they learn, and they like to experiment with new ways of doing things. So plan for more than one way for kids to experience a concept. Introducing shapes, for example: you might try having students find shapes around the classroom, or identify them on the board, or making shape pictures using tangrams.

5. HAVE A CLEAR PREDICTABLE SCHEDULE

Your day and their day will go smoothly as long as everyone knows what to expect. Follow the lesson plan and timeline the regular teacher has in place. Children expect and respond to consistency in their day.

6. PAY ATTENTION TO TRANSITIONS

Transitions can make or break your day in pre-kindergarten. Do things the same way the regular teacher does (if possible). If they've done it before, chances are they can do it again! Ensure that each student knows what is happening, what they need to do, etc. "OK children, when I say the magic word, everyone who is on this side of the room is going to line up along this line..." If need be, you can even practice a transition ahead of time.

