

1

You can certainly smile before November. **Be warm, authentic, sincere, and friendly from day one.**

2

Classroom management is the key to a positive learning environment. **Set clear expectations, teach them explicitly, practice them well.** Revisit as necessary.

3

**Save your voice for building relationships and instruction.** A signal like windchimes, a rhythmic clap, or a pleasant-sounding bell can gather the class' attention quickly and efficiently.

4

Get in the habit of **phrasing things in a positive way.** "Find a comfortable spot and read quietly the whole time" (instead of "Don't walk around and talk during reading time") or "We walk silently in the hall" (instead of "Don't talk on the way to music").

5

Learn how **subtle nuances in your speech can make a big difference.** For instance, instead of "I'm proud of you," try "You should be proud of yourself." We don't want to be students' biggest motivation. (For more on this, read *Choice Words* by Peter Johnston.)

8

**Stay inspired.** Read books and participate in professional development that keeps your own spark lit.

6

**Be flexible. Plan well. Be organized.** And be ready to pivot, because our job is to teach the children in front of us, not barrel through curriculum.

# 12 TIPS FOR NEW TEACHERS

9

You will be busy and overwhelmed at times. **Take your breaks. Eat lunch with the staff. Build professional relationships** and side up to those who will be positive mentors.

7

**Be yourself.** Comparison is an enemy. We want to learn from others, but instead of comparing ourselves with others, we reflect on our own practice and fine-tune.

10

**Ask about the unwritten rules.** For example, "Are the coffee cups in the staff room for everyone?"

11

**Ask for help.** Find a trusted colleague or administrator and let them help. Your colleagues want you to succeed and thrive. They will have strategies for the child who doesn't sit still, isn't grasping a math concept, or won't read anything but *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* for months.

12

**Positive relationships are critical.** (a) Establish them early (greet students at the door every day). (b) Maintain them frequently (check in during casual conversations and one-on-one conferences). (c) Restore them as needed. Oh boy . . . We all blow it. A heartfelt apology is always quickly accepted and their enthusiastic learning style reengaged.