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A morning routine in a preschool classroom is important for creating a calm and organized environment where children can transition from home to school smoothly. The routine should include activities that help children feel secure, establish a sense of community, and get ready for the day's learning. Here's a suggested morning routine for a preschool teacher's classroom:

### **1. Welcome and Check-In (Arrival - 8:00 AM)**

- **Warm Greeting:** Greet each child with a friendly smile, a wave, or a handshake as they enter the classroom. This sets a positive tone for the day.
- **Sign-In/Name Tags:** Have a sign-in sheet or name tag activity where each child can mark their arrival. This helps with routine and helps children feel more independent.
- **Morning Circle:** After all the children have arrived, gather them on a carpet or circle area for a brief morning circle. Here, children can share something about themselves, such as how they are feeling, and the teacher can share the day's plan.

### **2. Free Play/Choice Time (8:15 - 8:45 AM)**

- **Free Exploration:** Allow children to explore various stations (blocks, art, sensory play, reading corner, etc.). This helps them settle into the day and encourages social interaction and creativity.
- **Teacher Engagement:** As the children play, walk around and engage with them in their activities. Ask open-ended questions or guide them in problem-solving to build relationships and foster learning.

### **3. Morning Snack or Breakfast (8:45 - 9:00 AM)**

- **Healthy Snack:** If it's part of the routine, have a snack or breakfast time where children sit together. Encourage healthy eating habits and independence by letting children serve themselves if possible.



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- **Social Skills Practice:** Encourage polite conversation, using good manners ("please" and "thank you"), and sharing during this time.

#### 4. Calendar and Weather Discussion (9:00 - 9:15 AM)

- **Calendar Time:** Gather the children in a circle and discuss the day, date, and month. Sing songs like "Days of the Week" or "What's the Weather Today?" to introduce concepts of time and seasons.
- **Weather Chart:** Look out the window together, discuss the weather, and place a corresponding weather symbol on a chart (sunny, rainy, snowy, etc.).
- **Special Events:** Briefly go over any special activities or events for the day, such as a field trip, a guest visitor, or a special theme.

#### 5. Story Time or Morning Activity (9:15 - 9:30 AM)

- **Read Aloud:** Choose a short book to read aloud to the class. Reading helps build listening skills, vocabulary, and promotes a love of books.
- **Interactive Activity:** Alternatively, you can do a simple morning activity like a short song, finger play, or a movement game to get the children engaged and ready to focus.

#### 6. Transition to Learning Centers or Group Activities (9:30 AM)

- **Transitioning:** After the morning circle, invite children to transition into their designated learning centers (arts & crafts, blocks, pretend play, puzzles, etc.). Provide visual or auditory cues (such as a bell or song) to signal when it's time to clean up and move to the next activity.
- **Group Work:** Teachers can lead a short, focused activity (like a craft project or simple science experiment) for children to engage in before splitting into smaller groups for independent play.

#### 7. Cleanup and Preparation for the Day's Activities (9:45 - 10:00 AM)

- **Cleanup Time:** It's important to teach children to tidy up their space. Create a routine where children know to help clean up toys and materials.
- **Handwashing:** Ensure that children wash their hands before snack or lunch, after activities, and when transitioning between group activities.
- **Preparation for Next Activity:** Briefly prepare them for the next part of the day (e.g., outdoor play, lunch, etc.), and give them a chance to rest or recharge if needed.

#### Additional Tips for a Smooth Morning Routine:

- **Consistent Schedule:** Consistency is key for preschoolers. Keeping a similar structure each day will help children feel secure and know what to expect.



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- **Visual Timetable:** A visual schedule (with pictures) can be placed on the wall so children can see and follow the routine independently.
- **Positive Reinforcement:** Acknowledge and praise children's efforts (e.g., cleaning up, participating in circle time, sharing with others) to encourage good behavior and cooperation.
- **Flexible Timing:** Preschool children may take varying amounts of time for different activities, so it's important to be flexible while still maintaining an overall structure.

This routine helps children transition into their school day while also promoting social skills, responsibility, and learning readiness.



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