

EVERYDAY SKILL BUILDERS

Group times Rituals



VIDEO
TUTORIAL HERE

We've all seen it – and if we're honest, we've all lived it. The mat beckons, the educator beckons louder, and suddenly eight minutes have vanished in a flurry of "come and sit down," "we're waiting," and the unique chaos of herding small humans who have zero interest in being herded...and whom we should not be herding anyway.

By the time everyone's settled, group time hasn't even started yet and already we're eight minutes in.

A few simple rituals can flip the whole thing – this skillbuilder shows you how!

TIPS FOR A RITUAL BASED START TO GROUP TIMES

1

Base transitions on flow state, not the clock. If a group time usually happens at 11.30am watch for a break in childrens flow (engagement) around this time. Waiting a few extra minutes for this break to appear, signals a deep respect for children's learning and provides the perfect transition moment.

2

Instead of calling out "Kinders, everyone pack up, it's mat time!" try giving children a quiet heads-up that group time is coming (should they wish to join), then use a calm ritual that signals the start of the group time. This way the transition is slower and supportive of developing nervous systems.

3

Start with whoever's there. Often the directives kick in while we're waiting for everyone to gather – so just crack on! If your group times are hitting the mark, children will come. If they're not drawn in, that's worth reflecting on too.

4

A fun engaging song can create a ritual for the start of the mat time. Great examples from the field include 'rat-a-tat-tat' or 'Tiny Tim'.



RITUAL EXAMPLE – RAT A TAT TAT

Rat-a-tat-tat, who is that?
Only Grandma's pussy cat?
What do you want? A pint of milk.
Where's your money? In my pocket.
Where's your pocket? I forgot it!!

Oh you silly pussy cat!

Notes

Reflections

