

TRANSCRIPT: Building confidence and developing skills through routine

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The really important thing about doing the registration session is the routine. It really gives the children confidence because it's something that they do every single day and they begin to anticipate what's coming next because it is something that is so familiar to them.

So, for example, pressing a switch. When a student first comes to our school, you put a switch in front of them and they have no idea what they're supposed to do with that but, gradually, they know that they hit that switch at this particular time of the day and then, in time, they begin to learn that it's a response to the song, and it builds up from day to day, week to week, over a period of time.

With the routine, we're constantly moving the children forward. So, for example, a student like Joel that maybe finds it difficult to go round and say hello to other students, it may be only fleeting but he is actually going and making appropriate contact with each child, whether it's just touching their knee or shaking their hand.

The main focus with Kieran is to get him to look at a photo. When he first came into my class, he would maybe grab or reach toward something whereas now, he is focusing for a brief period on that photograph of his peer.

And the minute they reach the little goal that we're setting them, we move it on a little bit more.