

**Next Steps Planning: The First 3 Weeks of School**

<b>DESIGNING A CARING ENVIRONMENT</b>	What story will our environment tell about the type of community we want to create?	
	What can we do <i>before</i> the children and families arrive to create a welcoming space and a sense of blossoming community?	
	How can we ensure that the children's families are a part of the classroom community?	

# SCHEDULE and ROUTINES

How does our schedule “Tell the story” or reinforce the expectations for the classroom environment?

What can we do **before** the children arrive to help them know what to expect and what they should do, and to Enhance feelings of security?

How will we “teach” routines (e.g. clean up) and use them as learning opportunities?

**AGREEMENTS and  
EXPECTATIONS**

As a teaching team, what rules or expectations do we want to establish? What will we do to ensure that there is consistent reinforcement?

What can we do *before* the children arrive to build their understanding from Day 1?

How will we “teach” the rules/expectations and support children when they make mistakes (as they learn what to do and what is expected)?

**PROBLEM-SOLVING and  
CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

What strategies will you put in place to create an atmosphere where conflict can be dealt with peacefully and productively?

Do we anticipate conflicts that may arise in the first weeks of school? How might we create “Problem Stories” in advance?

How will we “teach” problem-solving and conflict resolution. Are there existing resources we have on hand?
