

Examples of Accepted Pitches

POST 1:
Bite Size
SEL
Lessons
by Kerry Elson

PITCH 1:

For many teachers (including me, until a couple years ago), snack time can be an interruption to the day. We offer crackers, water, and then ask kids to finish up so we can move onto whatever is next on the schedule.

Last year, after I started paying more attention to snack time, I found ways to use this brief time of the day to help children feel valued in our group. Snack no longer became something to hurry through, but a time to savor.

In my blog post, I'd like to write about simple ways teachers can adjust their snack time so it helps build community, as well. This post would be geared toward elementary-school teachers.

After a brief introduction, I would describe these ideas

- children can make the snack. They can make something simple that requires no heat, such as cream cheese on crackers and fruit salad, or simple baked items such as cheese biscuits. I would describe a few simple recipes and include a photo of a recipe I made for children.

- children can set up the snack, including setting up water pitchers, napkins, and more. These jobs can rotate to a new child each week.

- during snack time, children can practice positive behavior that applies to not only to snack, but also to working in a group in general. They learn to share materials, such as water pitchers, and take turns in conversation. Teachers can model this behavior in class discussions before snack time.

- children can have special “friendship snacks” on a regular basis to help one another feel valued. In my classroom this year, every Thursday children wrote a kind note to a classmate to read at their seat during snack (I assigned the recipients). We turned the lights low and lit electric tea lights to make the event feel more special.

- children can share special snacks from home. In my class, children often shared a special home snack for their birthday. One child brought in pupusas from a restaurant in the Bronx for her birthday, giving classmates a chance to try something from El Salvador, where some of her relatives live.

Snack time can be a powerful way to build community and I hope this blog post would give teachers some simple ideas to try right away.

Examples of Accepted Pitches

PITCH 2:

- I. Introduction
- II. Transitioning to a new teacher
 - a. Meet prior to end of previous year if possible
 - b. Meeting prior to start of new year
 - c. Request a meeting/IEP meeting to go over IEP accommodations so that everyone is on the same page
- III. Transitioning to a new classroom
 - a. Visit the new classroom prior to the end of the previous year if possible
 - b. Visit the new classroom prior to the start of the new year
 - c. Review new classroom for issues that might cause problems, e.g.,
 - i. Cubby too close to the scrum of students coming in and out of the door,
 - ii. Desk located where child can stim without disturbing others,
 - iii. Desk located where noise from hall or playground might be distracting
- IV. Transitioning to new curriculum
 - a. Meet together with new teacher and old teacher to talk about
 - i. strengths and challenges,
 - ii. lessons learned, and
 - iii. creative approaches used
 - b. Meet together with new teacher and any speech or special education teachers, case manager, etc., to talk about
 - i. Areas of growth and how to nurture them
 - ii. Challenging behaviors and how to manage them
 - iii. Things that worked and didn't work the previous year and why for both
- V. Conclusion

POST 2:
**Helping
Students
With Autism
Transition
Into A New
School Year**
by Elizabeth Barnes