

Elementary  
Edition!



# CHAMPS

Classroom Management

## Tip of the Week

### Transitions

Let's think about transitions. Common classroom transitions include beginning & ending routines, rotating centers, moving from direct instruction to a cooperative activity, cleaning up supplies, and collecting assignments. Poorly executed transitions can cause even the most structured classroom to fall apart!

Try to think of a transition as three separate parts:

#### **The Exit, the Bridge, and the Entrance.**

During the *Exit*, give an attention signal and allow time (5-7 seconds) for students to mentally and physically disengage from the previous activity before presenting new information. A clear *Exit* is especially important when transitioning from a preferred activity. Our goal is for all students to hear the directions the first time- rather than reinforce the notion that the teacher will use repeated requests and reminders.

During the *Bridge*, you will explain the directions and set your expectations. Before expecting students to *Enter* into the new activity, it's helpful to give a **Starter Signal** (word or sound) such as "When I clap three times, you will.," or, "When I say the word \_\_\_\_\_, I'd like you to.." If possible, model and post the steps visually while stating them verbally.

Instead of assuming that students will correctly assume or predict how long a transition should take, provide a tool! Timers, songs, and countdowns help students understand time expectations, gauge their pace, and complete the transitions successfully.

