

Joint Activity Routines, Rituals and Spiritual Practices

Joint Activity Routines

Critical Elements

1. Obvious unifying theme or purpose
2. Requirement for joint focus and interaction
3. Limited number of clearly delineated roles
4. Exchangeable or reversible roles
5. Logical non arbitrary sequence (can use topic boards)
6. Structure for turn taking in predictable sequence
7. Planned repetition
8. Planned for controlled variation

Types of Joint Activity Routines

1. Preparation or fabrication of a specific end product (e.g, food preparation, product assembly)
2. Cooperative turn taking games or routines (e.g, songs with spaces to fill, action routines, sports)
3. Routines organized around a plot or theme (e.g, daily living routines such as meal time, going to church, doing chores)

Implementing Routines

1. Introduce concept gradually. Start with simple routines based upon:
 - a) motivation and interest
 - b) functionality
 - c) likelihood that they already occur or can be scheduled to occur as a regular activity
2. Initially model and prompt to establish routines
 - a) Discuss purpose or use picture sequence to facilitate understanding
 - b) Withdraw prompts and support as routines become familiar
3. Provide structure and repetition until routine is mastered. Add variation after mastery but keep “meaning” or purpose constant. Provide consistent simple language to

¹ From Snyder McLean et al (1984). Structuring joint action routines: A strategy for facilitating communication in the classroom.

Joint Activities cont.

Ways to Vary Routines (thereby introducing flexibility)

1. Interrupt or violate routine
2. Omit necessary materials
3. Introduce new materials
4. Initiate old routines in new contexts

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