

Classroom Transition Timers

Printable teacher handout · myclassroomhelp.com/classroom-timer

Routine	Time	How it runs
Carpet to desk	0:60	Kids stand, push in chairs, walk (not run) to seats, materials out. Start timer as you say "Go."
Clean-up time	2:00-2:30	Music optional. Everyone contributes; nobody sits until the room is reset. Timer visible on the board.
Lining up	0:45	Table by table. First table lines up at 0:45, next at 0:30, etc. Silent line = repeat tomorrow shorter.
Materials switch	1:30	Books away, next subject out, pencil sharpened. Long enough for real switching, short enough to stay sharp.
Back from recess	1:30	Water, restroom, seated with book open. Lights dimmed. Timer is the only signal you need.
End-of-day pack up	3:00	Chairs stacked, floor checked, backpacks on. Last 30 seconds = seated quietly, ready for dismissal.

Three routines to master first

Carpet to desk (60s)	Clean-up time (2:00-2:30)	Daily repetition
• Announce the timer before you start. • Stand, push in chair, walk to seat. • Materials out before the beep. • Debrief in 15 seconds if it fails.	• Everyone has a job before you start. • Music optional, timer on the board. • No one sits until the room is reset. • Beat the timer, but stay whisper-quiet.	• Same routine, same length, every day. • Shave 5 seconds off once it's easy. • Praise the process, not just speed. • Reset the routine after any break.

Tip: keep the timer visible from the back row. If students can't read it, it isn't working.
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