

# The Grade R Day

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Make sure you arrive at school before your learners do. Prepare the Learning Area tables with the relevant materials and activities you have planned for the day.

## ARRIVAL TIME (15 - 30 minutes)

Greet learners as they arrive. Make sure that they neatly pack away their bags, jackets, jerseys and coats in their lockers.

Allow learners to quietly complete puzzles and games, read books and draw pictures at their tables while they wait for their friends to arrive.

### VOCABULARY OPPORTUNITIES:

Good morning!  
Hello!  
How are you?

## HEALTH CHECK (10 minutes)

The Grade R teacher is charged with the education of his/her learners. He/She is also responsible for their emotional and physical well-being while they are in his/her care. Spend some time asking learners how they are. Let them show you their scrapes, bruises and plasters. Ask them what caused the injury.

Run a head-to-toe health check of each learner and record any signs of illness and neglect.

Recording this information is vitally important. Neglect and abuse are very often repeated against children and a pattern emerges. Accurate recordings of your observations could make a big difference to the welfare of the learner.

| Signs to watch out for   | What it may indicate | What to do  |
|--|----------------------|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Injuries over a period of time</li> <li>Injuries at various stages of healing</li> <li>Cuts, bruises, burn marks, abrasions and fractures which cannot be explained</li> <li>Obvious pain, often</li> </ul>   | Physical abuse       | <p>Apply the following procedure if you suspect some form of child abuse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gather information about your suspicion without implicating any person.</li> <li>Document your information in a file (e.g. information from the learner, information from other learners and/or parents, and reports from parents and educators).</li> <li>Treat this information as highly confidential (all information gathered must be placed in a separate file and stored in a strong-room or safe. This information must not be discussed with other teachers, learners, or parents).</li> <li>Report your suspicions to your school principal who will contact the relevant role players.</li> </ol> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The child does not grow</li> <li>Weight loss</li> <li>Pale and emaciated</li> <li>Constant vomiting and/or diarrhoea</li> <li>Does not reach developmental milestones within normal age-range</li> </ul>  | Neglect              |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pain</li> <li>Unusual itching of genitals or anal area</li> <li>Sexually transmitted diseases</li> <li>Difficulty sitting or walking</li> <li>Regular urinary infection</li> <li>Continual irritation and/or mouth sores (the result of forced oral sex)</li> </ul> | Sexual abuse         |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bedwetting</li> <li>Soiling</li> <li>Continual complaints of headaches, nausea, and/or stomach pain for which there is no physical cause</li> </ul>   | Emotional abuse      |   |

Adapted from WCED online

