

# 9 ways to make a good first impression as a supply teacher

by Gemma Gibbons, full-time primary teacher at Excell

## 1 BIG SMILES AND THANK YOUS

The first person you meet when you enter a school is the receptionist. It's super important to make a good impression straight away. Always make sure to have big smile on your face, introduce yourself and thank them for booking you.

Don't change anything for the children. As they come in to class, smile and you'll find a few come over to introduce themselves. Then, at registration, introduce yourself with a big smile and a wave. What child would feel at ease and happy in a classroom with a teacher that never cracks a smile?



## 2 BE EARLY

Make sure you have time to set up, read and re-read the plans prepared for you. This helps you teach as if you wrote the plans yourself. It's important to have confidence in what you're teaching and being early allows you to research anything you may need to.

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### LEARN NAMES A.S.A.P

Learn student names as fast as you can. Try taking the register and asking the children to put up their hand when they answer. This helps to get a quick idea of who's who.

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### BE AWARE OF YOUR BODY LANGUAGE

Try to avoid showing nerves and adapt it to the situation. For example, stand tall and confidently when teaching but crouch to a child's height when they have something to confide. You will have moments when you need to approach behaviour management more sternly. This is the time to change your body language and tone of voice.



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### DRESS PROFESSIONALLY

Teaching is a profession. Always dress appropriately and comfortably.



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### HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Expect the children to give their best and expect them to act the same way for you as they would for their class teacher.



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### MODULATE YOUR VOICE

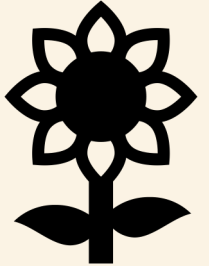
Use your voice in an upbeat manner to sound positive and friendly. Get this across straight away - it's so important for behaviour management. The pupils instantly pick up on my friendliness and positivity so when my tone drops and becomes serious, they know straight away that this is important.



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### HAVE FUN!

Aim to have some fun, maybe a quick game before break or a light hearted story. Get the pupils to relax and feel comfortable with you. This method can work well as the students are more likely to see you as approachable and have more confidence about speaking up, telling you if they need help with anything. Having fun can also be a quick-fire way to learn the children's personalities.



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### GIVE PRAISE

Give positive praise. Praise for the little things, such as sitting quietly on the carpet. Tell the students what is expected. If some children aren't doing what they're told, point it out and praise the children that are.

