

Top Tips for Trainee Teachers

Experiment out of your comfort zone

Communicate with your mentor

Get organised and start collecting evidence from day dot

Use your mentor as a soundboard

Be patient and trust the process

Be responsible!

Mimic the daily activities of a teacher

Reflect, reflect, reflect!


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1

Communicate with your mentor

Your mentor and tutors should be approachable and will want to know when something will affect your practice. Whether you're stuck in traffic and can't make Period 1, or a more longstanding issue, your mentor will want to know so they can take care of immediate responsibilities in a timely manner (this includes looking after your needs!)



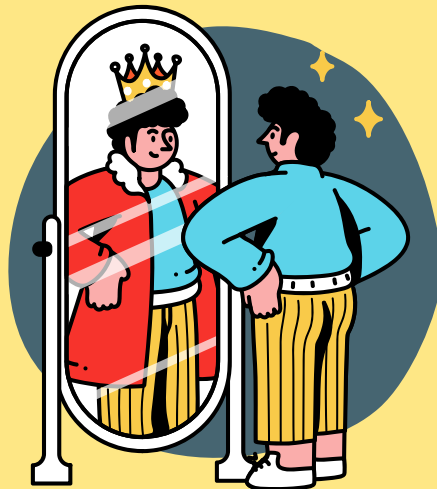
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2

Experiment out of your comfort zone

This is the year to have fun with your pedagogy and try new styles and techniques until you find your own groove! You won't have much experimental time later so go wild and note what works well and what doesn't!



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3

Get organised and start collecting evidence from day dot

If you're a stationery fiend and love personalised stamps and planners, this is the time of year to indulge in what you love! Don't miss out on fantastic apps and digital productivity tools! Collect lesson plans, slides, meeting notes; everything counts and it's so rewarding to see the changes from the beginning to the end of the course. Chances are, you'll look back and laugh at something!



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4

Use your mentor as a soundboard

Your mentor can be a model and guide, but this does not mean you have to copy their style- and many mentors won't expect you to! Teaching is more effective when you are authentic and lean into your own natural style. Use your mentor as a soundboard rather than a model to copy.



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5

Be responsible!

Especially if you are young, the small age gap between you and your students can sometimes blur boundaries. Safeguard yourself and others at all times. Be responsible for your own learning too- try to do 1 reading a week about pedagogy. Not only does this help your practice but is an added help when writing up your assignments so you don't have to search for loads of references at the last hour!



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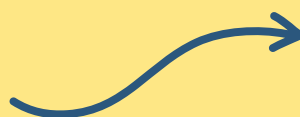




6

Mimic the daily activities of a teacher

Even if your mentor only expects you to do the bare minimum and teach your lessons, get involved with more. Attend staff meetings, ask for help on writing 5 reports (not the whole class), and marking 10 papers of your own students etc. Otherwise, when you start a full-time teaching timetable – you'll be in for a nasty shock. Prepare yourself from now!



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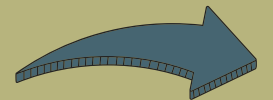


7

Be patient and trust the process

Students will know you're new and they may either struggle to accept you, or they may adore you! Your relationship with them will change through your placement depending on how you get to know each other. Your progress on the course can sometimes feel slow but it is happening! Trust the process.

The training doesn't actually get easier, but you definitely become better. As you learn more skills, you become more resilient and gain more experience to deal with challenges. So hang in there!



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Reflect, reflect, reflect!

This is important for any human, regardless of what job or position you're in! Especially in a role where you are responsible for the development of others, reflection is crucial to ensure that you are not repeating patterns that are damaging but repeating behaviours and techniques that are beneficial.



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BONUS TIP

Remember you are human!

Go easy on yourself! Work on your personal demons outside of the classroom. Grab coffee catch ups with friends/colleagues, practise positive self-talk and leave baggage outside the classroom. In a job that requires such an emotional demand, it can be easy to blur these boundaries; remember your role is to leave a positive difference.

