Routine Essentials General Information

What is Routine Essentials?

Routine Essentials is a series of visual supports designed to support everyday school routines. If there is a Functional Routine on which your student is working, Routine Essentials is likely to have a visual support that goes together with that routine.

Examples of Routine Essentials supports include visual schedule icons, independent work task strips and activities, bathroom/self-care visuals, behavior supports like first/then boards, social scripts, visuals to support inclusion and specials, and much, much, more.

Why Use Routine Essentials?

Simply put, the most important component of Functional Routines is a goal of independence for the student who is being taught that routine. Visual supports that are available within Routine Essentials allow us to more quickly and effectively fade adult verbal and physical prompting so that our students can learn to depend more on environmental cues in the long run – it provides the visual and environmental supports to be more independent! Routine Essentials supports help answer important questions that our students have, even though they may not be expressing them:

1. What do I need to do?
2. In what order do things need to be done?
3. How do I know when I am finished?
4. What do I do next?

How to Use Routine Essentials

A few easy steps for Routine Essentials implementation	
1	After completing the Student Learning Profile assessment for your students, you will be able to easily select 2-3 target routines to teach them
2	Once those routines have been selected, the data pages / task analysis pages for those lessons can be printed or copied from the STAR Blackline Masters
3	Visit the Routine Essentials page on the STAR Media Center, find the corresponding box to the routine lessons you've selected for your student, and then print and prepare the visual and environmental supports that coincide with those lessons
4	Important note: you can also view and print visual supports for routines that are not "target" or selected routines in which the student is involved daily. It is not a requirement to finish steps 1 and 2 above before printing an using visual resources – use what you need!
5	Helpful tip: don't know where to start? Sometimes, teachers find it to be helpful to start exploring transition, independent work, group, arrival, and departure routines first because these make up such a large and important part of students' days in school.