First Steps on Day One

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| Tip | Can you do this?  | Yes=How? | No=Why not? |
| * Ask your office to give you a little advanced notice if possible before the student arrives.
* Have a place ready for the student that is with the rest of the class. Pair the student with a willing partner, especially if there is a student who speaks the native language of your newcomer.
* Talk to your students about what is going to happen. Get them excited and interested in their new classmate.
* Make sure you know how the newcomer student is going home. Partner the student with another student who goes home the same way.
* SMILE at the student.
* Introduce yourself. Introduce the class.
* Show the student where the bathroom is and how to get water.
* Maintain predictable routines.
* Let the students do what the other students are doing. This is almost like "playing school." The newcomers are figuring out how U.S. schools work. If the students want to copy what the other students are doing, allow this for a short time.
* Be patient!
* Use lots of visuals and gestures.
* Speak clearly and pause frequently. Keep it natural.
* Use songs, poems, and chants whenever possible.
* Reread text.
* Accept oral and written responses in the native language for a time.
* Don't try too much at once.
* Always remember to think how you would feel if you or someone you love were in the student's place. How would you want that first school experience to be?
* Be truthful...body language doesn't need translation.
* What else do you do that helps your newcomers?
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