10 Practical Behaviour Strategies for Supporting SEND Learners

1. **Give short, clear instructions — one step at a time.**
   "First underline the title. Then stop and wait for me."

2. **Use visuals — picture cues, timers, and simple routines.**
   "When the timer hits zero, we tidy up."

3. **Give reminders before problems happen and praise positive behaviour.**
   "Remember, listening ears while I'm talking… great job showing me you're ready!"

4. **Allow movement or short breaks when needed.**
   "If you need a quick break, you can take two minutes at the quiet desk."

5. **Break work into small chunks and give quick, encouraging feedback.**
   "Let's do the first three questions together, then you try the next one."

6. **Provide small choices to increase motivation.**
   "Would you like to start with the writing task or the drawing task?"

7. **Use calm, consistent language and expectations.**
   "The rule is the same as yesterday — hands down when someone else is speaking."

8. **Pre-teach key vocabulary or steps before the lesson.**
   "Before we join the class, let's look at the three words you'll see today."

9. **Use simple 'first–then' prompts to guide behaviour.**
   "First finish this line, then you can have a movement break."

10. **Check in privately to avoid embarrassment or escalation.**
    "Can I talk to you for a moment? I want to help you get back on track."

Further Help and Guidance:

- Education Endowment Foundation
- Nasen

To discuss any of the above or for any other queries, please call us on +44 (0) 20 3637 4232 or email info@veema.co.uk.

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