



9 Tips for Successful Onboarding

1. Reach out to New Hires Before their start date. If you have no communication with the new employee between the time you hired them and the day they show up to work, you are already sending the wrong message. A simple phone call a few days prior to their start date to tell them you are excited to have them as part of your team can go a long way to making them feel welcomed. As much paperwork as possible should be provided and completed prior to their first day, including providing them with the company handbook.
2. Make the First Day Memorable. Their first day should be one of their best days.
 - a.) Have their desk or work area ready for them, including business cards printed.
 - b.) Have their welcome package waiting for them, i.e. company clothing, a note from the President or other executive staff, etc.
 - c.) Flowers or a plant on their desk or work area.
 - d.) Provide a dinner and/or movie gift card for them to take their partner out. (Including their spouse or friend only adds another cheerleader for them and your company.)
 - e.) Schedule a lunch with new hire and co-workers. (On the company's dime)
3. Meet the Entire Team. Set in advance specific times within the first 2-weeks to meet and spend time with every department head. Regardless if they ever deal directly with them, it is important that every employee knows what the company does. Your employees should be able to tell "your story" and be the greatest promoters of your company.
4. Provide clear expectations and monitor and communicate them often. Employees want to know what to do and how they are doing. One of the main reasons people leave a company is that they never felt they knew what was expected of them.
5. Shadow fellow employees. Pick your top promoters from each department within your company and have the new employee spend time with them (1/2 day or full day). Not only will they learn what others do, but hopefully they will be on their way to becoming a cheerleader for your company as well.
6. Have a clear hour-by-hour agenda/training planned for the first 2-weeks. (1 month if possible). If your company provides on-going training, getting the new employee up to speed with the others as quickly as possible is paramount. This will include, reading, videos, audio, meeting with other employees, etc. Anything and everything so that they are exposed to and know what the other employees know.



7. Regular Updates and Reviews. Employees want to know how they are doing. Let them know in advance that on specific dates (2-week, 1-month, 2-months, 6-months, etc.) they will meet with someone to provide feedback on their performance.
8. Promote your New Employee(s) to the Public. One way to promote your company as a positive place to work is to promote your new employees to the general public. You can do this via your local radio stations, social media platforms, direct mail, etc.
9. Request Feedback from New Employees. One of the biggest reasons people leave a company is that they feel their opinion doesn't matter or that they didn't feel like part of the team. At specific dates, (1-month, 3-months, 6-months) ask the new employee for their positive and negative feedback on the onboarding process and other things about the company. You will learn a lot.