

Classroom Management

Good Management = More Effective Instruction

- Let them know you are sensitive to their needs and that you care about them. Get to know each of your students as individuals (know their background/family context) and remind them often that you were this age once. Share stories about yourself and when you were that age. Students love knowing you as well. ☺
- Treat everyone fairly and with respect, but be consistent with your routines and procedures (go over them often). IT IS EASIER TO LIGHTEN UP THAN TO TIGHTEN UP!!!
- Be enthusiastic!!! YOU ARE A TEACHER! You have the power to change lives!
- Create a safe environment for you and your students.
- Discipline your students as if their parents were standing beside them.
- Create a procedural dimension (how your room is set up). Is it conducive to learning? Can everyone see/hear?
- Work closely with your parents and keep a file on parent communication. Keep good documentation of your students as well.
- Discipline with your body and not your mouth. If needed, take a student to the side and talk to them instead of in front of the class.
- Use music and songs when possible. Classical music is good for calming students and for stimulating thinking.
- Research brain-based strategies (color, movement, etc.). They can be very effective.
- Have effective instruction and ALWAYS BE PREPARED! Have your materials ready and plenty of effective work for them. There should be little downtime and material available for early finishers. When children have nothing to do, they tend to do something they are not supposed to be doing.
- Let your students know they are responsible for their behavior and that no student is going to disrupt the learning in the room or your teaching.
- Allow students to move often. Do not expect them to sit in their seats all day.
- Work as a “classroom family,” and encourage that behavior in your room (cooperative learning, encouraging words, and praise to each other).
- Give them responsibility (teacher assistant, student of the day, etc.)
- Use popsicle sticks with their names on them to keep from calling on the same students and to help when you have a substitute.
- Reward students sporadically and with rewards appropriate for your grade level.
- Send positive notes home and make positive phone calls. Too many times parents only hear from us when there is a problem.

- Use a marble jar as a reward. This also gives them a voice/vote when it is filled. They may choose the reward (lunch with the teacher, art project, popcorn, etc.)
- Don't call on specific bad behavior – let them know you see a girl/boy doing something they are not supposed to be doing. This gives them a chance to correct their behavior without you drawing attention to them personally.
- Walk around the room. Do not teach in one area. This will help with behavior and keep their focus on you and what you are teaching.
- Get their attention by clapping, whispering, holding up an object, “give me five” (eyes on me, mouths closed, ears listening, brain thinking, heart caring about your learning).
- Tell them what you are looking for and your expectation. “I am looking for someone sitting correctly or standing in line correctly, etc”
- Give them a pat on the back (paper hand with a piece of tape on it). You can attach it to their back.
- When in line, tell them to “check themselves.” Give expectation.
- Be specific when they are doing something correctly. Do not just say “good job.” Say, “good job spelling that word correctly.”
- They love to think they are acting older than they are. If they are doing well, tell them they are beginning to act like ____ graders (the next grade level).
- Always walk in the back of the line to keep an eye on your class. If you are in front, you cannot see what is going on behind you. Train your line leader to stop at various points in the building so the line will stay together.
- Thank students often. It shows you respect them and helps teach them good manners.
- MODEL! MODEL! MODEL! All EXPECTATIONS.....behavior, etc.
- Let students know how proud you are of them and that you have noticed improvement – even if it is small.
- Say something nice about them everyday!
- Be consistent with your management and schedule. Children love a schedule and they want routines and discipline.
- Keep the learning environment clean. Teach them to clean up after themselves. “Treasure Trash,” is a way for them to clean up the floor at the end of the day. You find a piece of paper, trash on the floor and stand by the trash can. They clean up the room and show you what they are throwing away and at the end you tell them who found the “treasure trash.” Your custodians will also love you and it is true what they say – be good to your custodians and lunch ladies!!!!
- Use humor throughout the day and everyday! It is good for the soul. ☺