

## Classroom Management Plan

### **Philosophy of Classroom Management**

I believe the classroom should create a safe and engaging learning environment. My classroom will be democratic, allowing students to lend a hand in creating rules and making classroom decisions. I believe it is important for students to have an active role in the classroom. It is also imperative for teachers to get to know each and every student, as well as the students getting to know one another. Therefore, the classroom must allow students to express themselves and build positive relationships with their peers.

As a teacher I must be very patient with students and encourage their success. I want students to feel comfortable and safe in my classroom. For many students, school is the brightest part of their day, and they need to know that someone cares about them. So, I want my students to know that I care and they can come to me for help.

I believe it is vital to set expectations early in the year. A very important expectation in the classroom is respect. Students need to not only respect the teacher, but all of their classmates as well. I believe that, as a role model for my students, I must show them respect. It is essential to model the behaviors I expect of my students.

Teachers can only control the learning environment in the classroom. However, I believe teachers must encourage learning to continue when the students go home. It is important for teachers to work cooperatively with parents. I will work toward an open line of communication with parents and promote parental involvement in the learning process.

### **Environmental Organization**

The organization of the classroom can affect the attitude, behavior and success of the students. The classroom must be cheerful and inviting. My room will have various educational bulletin boards as well as a variety of environmental print. It is important for students to be proud of their own work, so I will also leave open space for students to display their artwork and various other projects they complete in class.

I believe it is important for all classrooms to have an adequate library including a variety of different genres of books. All students need to be able to find books of interest, to ensure that they develop a love for reading. My classroom will have a relaxing area near the library; so that when students finish their work early they have a quiet place to go read books of their choice. The library will also include supplemental materials for students to have access to for studying, writing or researching. It is very

important for students to begin gaining technological skills at an early age. So, having computers in the classroom would be very beneficial to students.

The layout of students' desks is very critical. All students must be able to see the board and any demonstration area I may use. I also believe that students should be facing one another. It is beneficial for students to sit in tables or pods. This helps students build relationships and help one another, because all students have different strengths, weaknesses, likes and dislikes. Seating arrangements will change at various times throughout the year so that students can bond with all classmates. I will also have a group area, because students can only sit in one spot for a limited amount of time. Transitioning from desks to the group area gives students a chance to stretch and a change of scenery.

### **Discipline Plan**

I believe the key to discipline is prevention. Steps I will take toward preventing poor behavior starts with allowing students to assist in writing the classroom rules, with a focus on safety, respect, and responsibility. By creating their own expectations they hold themselves accountable for their actions. It is important for all students to clearly understand what is expected of them.

In an Elementary setting, I will have a behavioral card system set up in the classroom (green-great day, yellow-warning, blue-loss of privileges/note home, red-office referral). I must be consistent with the card system, and when students are required to change a card. Students will notice if there are any inconsistencies among students or behaviors that result in turning a card.

I prefer positive reinforcement over negative punishment. Children like being rewarded. Rewards instill a sense of pride in students for their positive behaviors. Rewards can be as simple as a sticker or a positive note home. Negative punishment often takes time away from learning and disrupts the class. Positively reinforcing a student's positive behavior can be done at the convenience of the class and takes little to no time away from student learning.

### **Conclusion**

Rules and classroom management must be flexible, because no class will be the same. So, my classroom management plan may need to be altered from year to year as my students change. There are several components that will always be included, but their implementation may be different. With proper classroom management, the school year should be a fun and enjoyable learning experience.