

Classroom Management Philosophy

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One of the most important aspects of being a teacher is having good classroom management skills. “Classroom management deals with how students do their work” (Wong & Wong, pg. 8). As teachers, we need to understand the difference between classroom management and discipline because they are not the same thing. Classroom management is a proactive strategy compared to discipline which is a reactive strategy. There are so many different classroom management strategies out there, it is up to the teacher to decide what works best for her and her classroom.

“To create a classroom environment where my students will always feel safe and welcome. I will respect all my students as individuals and I would hope for them to respect me as well. My classroom will be a positive learning environment that has set procedures and expectations for my students. Procedures and expectations will be a very important aspect in my classroom management plan. I will use the love and logic approach to build responsibility in my students, and to hold them to a higher standard of behavior.” This is my classroom management philosophy. I feel that this philosophy will help me be an effective teacher in the elementary setting.

Plan for the First Days of School

On the first day of school I think it is important to start building relationships with the students. I am going to have a “get to know you” activity for my class to play, this will allow my students to get to know each other as well as for me to start learning about each student. In the elementary setting, I think it is good to have games because younger children love games. The game I would use is a beach ball with questions on it. The students will pass it around the room and whatever question their hand lands on they must answer. The questions will deal with what

the students like. After we play the game for a while I will then move into classroom guidelines and procedures.

In the first few days of school it will be important for me to implement my classroom guidelines and procedures. I will create a PowerPoint to show to my class on the first day of school. The PowerPoint will go through each guideline and procedure for the class.

In our textbook, *The Classroom Management Book* there are many different procedures that teachers have used in the classroom. Some of the procedures I would have in my classroom would be how to line up, using the bathroom, back packs, classroom jobs, attendance, cubbies, and my time/ your time. These procedures are ones that I found in our textbook and I think they are important to incorporate at the beginning of the year. We would start off by running step by step through each procedure on the first day of school. We would continue to practice them throughout the week to create a classroom routine. Getting the classroom routine down in the first few days of school will set the expectations for the rest of the year.

My procedure for lining up would be the students will line up in number order safely and quietly. The students would be dismissed to line up and they must quietly walk to line up. If they do not line up quietly we will return to our desks and try again until they can do it quietly. My procedure for using the bathroom would consist of me providing two white boards on the wall, one for girls and one for boys. The students must sign their name on the white board if they want to leave the room to go to the bathroom. I will only allow one boy and one girl to be out of the classroom at a time unless it is an emergency. The procedures for backpacks at the beginning of the day would be, they must be hung up in the hall on their assigned hooks, backpacks will not be needed in the classroom. At the end of the day, students will be dismissed by groups of numbers to walk out to the hall quietly to retrieve their backpacks to line up. After grabbing their

things from the hall, they will come back in and line up quietly, until they are dismissed to leave. Another important procedure I want to implement into my class is my time/your time. I think it is important for children to respect me as their teacher and give me their full attention when I am teaching. If they respect my time I will respect theirs. If they disrespect my time I will take away time from their recess or free time.

Procedures are great way to manage a classroom, they are a proactive strategy to use before an inappropriate behavior occurs. Creating expectations and procedures for students to follow will create a well-managed classroom. I plan to keep our textbook as a resource for years to come, I think it will be a useful tool to have if I ever need help with my classroom procedures.

Connections to Students and Families

Building relationships with the students and families in my class will be very important for the success of my students. It is important to keep parents informed about what is happening in the classroom. I think it is important to keep them informed on not only the struggles in the classroom but the successes in the class. Parents want to know how their child is doing and it is up to me as the teacher to inform them.

One way I will create connections with the students is by getting to know them at the beginning of the year. I will also make sure to provide the class with information about myself, this will help them understand that I am a normal person outside of school, just like them. Sometimes young children struggle with understanding this concept. I would also like to have a student of the week, where they create an “all about me poster” to share with the class. I want to make myself be approachable to my students. I want them to know that they can come to me for anything and that I will be there to guide them and support them.

One way I will build connections with the families is by sending home a monthly newsletter to parents. This will be a way for me to inform the families about what we have been doing in the classroom. Another thing I would like to implement is giving parents a phone call home about their students' progress, I want to make sure they know how well their student is doing. I do not want parents to dread my phone calls because all I ever have to say is bad news. I want to make sure to give parents phone calls about something great their child has done. I want to have an open-door policy, I want the parents to know they are welcome in our classroom, to observe or come and read to the class. This is a way for them to be more involved in their child's education.

What if?

In the event that a student in my class starts behaving inappropriately in the classroom or is causing problems, I will approach the situation by using Love and Logic. I would use Love and Logic because it holds children to higher standards of behavior (Fay & Funk, 1995). Before handling a heated situation, I would allow the student and myself time to calm down. Nothing will get solved if we are both upset, time will allow both of us to calm down and think about what is happening. Once we have calmed down I would start out by asking the student questions about why he did what he did. I want to make my student think about why it was wrong. Asking questions will force my students to think and come up with their own solutions to the problems (Fay & Funk, 1995). In my eyes, it is important to teach children how to be responsible and hold themselves accountable for their actions. Love and logic is a great way to help students become accountable for themselves and their behaviors. From the Love and Logic readings I took away that consequences do not need to happen right after the incident, it is okay to delay consequences.

There are three basic rules of Love and Logic I need to remember when I am in my own classroom and they are: provide choices within limits, use enforceable limits, and apply consequences with empathy. Providing choices for students will still give them the control they need of their own life but it will be on my terms. This will be beneficial to use when I have a student who does not want to do a specific assignment, I could give them an alternative option. It would also work when giving consequences, the student can choose between two options. Using enforceable limits forces children to think about what happened. Ordering students to do things does not work, it is important to provide them with an option that can actually happen. Applying consequences with empathy would be the most effective way to apply consequences. It is important to approach consequences with empathy and understanding rather than anger and lecture.

Since there are so many different approaches to classroom management there is a high chance I will be placed in a school with different views of classroom management. As a teacher, it will be my job to make sure that I follow the way the school handles certain situations for classroom management. However, I think it would still be okay if I implemented some of my own strategies that I find to work best as long as I discuss it with the principle first.

Classroom management is key to running an effective classroom. As a teacher, I want to create a safe and welcoming classroom environment. I want to build relationships with my students and their families. Creating classroom procedures and expectations will be a great for a successful learning environment. Love and Logic will be a large part of my classroom management philosophy because it will hold my students to higher standards of behavior. I know that I may have to adjust my philosophy when I am placed in a school setting where I must

incorporate the building policies as well. As a teacher, I need to be flexible and create the expectation at the beginning of the year of what is expected of my students.

Appendices

Appendix A- This is an example of how I will have the desks set up in my classroom. I like the idea of having pods because it allows for more collaborative work.



Appendix B- Here is an example of classroom guidelines I would use in my classroom.

Our Classroom Rules

Walking Feet

Inside Voices

Listening Ears

Say Please and Thank you

Keep Hands and Feet to Yourself

Follow Directions Quickly

Use Classroom Materials Safely

Work Quietly

Raise Your Hand if you Need Help

Be Ready to learn at the Beginning of Class

Appendix C- This is an example of the bathroom sign out white boards.



References

Fay, J. & Funk, D. (1995). *Teaching with Love & Logic*. Golden, CO: The Love & Logic Press.

Wong, H.K., Wong, R.T. (2014). *The Classroom Management Book*. Mountain View, CA: Harry K. Wong Publications, Inc.