CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT TIPS FOR GRADE 1 TEACHERS

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Elementary pupils particularly in the first grade are uneasy to handle. Most children at this age have limited attention span that is why a solid collection of classroom management ideas can help prevent this problem for teachers. With reference to https://www.apa.org, classroom management is the process by which teachers and schools create and maintain appropriate behavior of students in classroom settings. Since corporal punishment can never be an option, teachers must strive hard to manage their classes. Based on my experience as a Grade 1 teacher, below are some tips that might be helpful.

1. Maintain limited attention spans. Teachers should keep their attitude fresh and interested in the lesson. They should promote and maintain excitement. In addition, they may use visual props to catch and maintain pupils’ attention. Varying type of materials used during the lesson could also help. Daily lessons should never be boring. It is also vital to ensure that all eyes are on the teacher. If a pupil is looking away, do something and wait for his/her attention to return.

2. Use attention-getting signals. Verbal cues, body cues and even sounds can get children’s attention when needed. These signals make the children think that their teacher wants them to do something. For example, a teacher may clap her hands indicating that it is time to listen for they are about to start. She may also use numbers, songs or rhymes.

3. Teach expected classroom behavior. From the beginning, there should be expectations of classroom behavior and every pupil should know that. Failure to establish rules and
routine will lead to consequences of pupils’ misbehavior for the entire school year. This includes interrupted lessons and decrease in the quality of teaching and learning.

Maximize presence. The teacher herself is a powerful tool in the classroom. In the first grade, pupils have a strong desire to please their teacher. When a teacher notices that a group of pupils are becoming unruly (especially during recess), simply walking to the area can stop the unwanted behavior. As much as possible, the teacher’s presence should be felt.

These are just some tips to manage classroom effectively. In every situation, teachers should bear in mind that no pupil shall be harmed when it comes to discipline. Corporal punishment is a big no, and positive discipline must always prevail. Positive points of behavior should be emphasized. Remember, there are no bad children, just good and bad behaviors.

References:

Classroom Management, Retrieved from https://www.apa.org/education/k12/classroom-mgmt