DEALING WITH NOISE INSIDE THE CLASSROOM

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“Keep quiet!” a repeated exhausting request that is commonly uttered by a teacher inside the classroom. This request for silence, repeated a hundred times just seems to consume a lot of energy and the children just tune you out. It’s been a struggle for teachers how to silence a class and avoid unnecessary noise. It’s good if the noise has something to do about the lesson but the teacher must be alarmed and has to do something if not.

Discipline and classroom management are, by far the top battles that teachers must win in the classroom. Instead of yelling and getting mad, there are some creative and respectful ways on how to reduce or convert noise into something meaningful. Warnings and reminders won’t do lot to solve the problem like what teachers usually do. These are some tips on how to silence a class during hours of teaching-learning:

1. **Countdown from 10**

   The teacher could start counting down from 10 when it is very noisy. Make a deal that when the numbering reaches zero, everybody should pay their attention. The children will automatically behave because it will be a routine for them.

2. **Do a mannequin challenge**

   Be playful. Assign a magic word and every time the teacher says it, the class would do the mannequin challenge where everybody would freeze and stop talking. It’s a good way of catching attention so that the teacher can continue to the next topic or activity.

3. **Call and Response**
The teacher may group the children into four and assign a group name like name of heroes. During the class hours, the teacher may call each group name and the group must make the sound or action of the hero to earn a point. The group that will make the most points is the winner of the day. Works well even in high school students.

4. Subtract wasted time

Eye the clock or the watch as a signal that the children are wasting their time on the making noise. Have a deal that every minute they waste will be counted and it will be subtracted to their recess time. Children wouldn’t want to miss recess so it will definitely work.

5. Reward System

Thank students who are quiet individually or give some rewards. This act will make the noisy students to behave. This is kind of traditional but still works and tested by time.

6. The CCTV

Have behaviors recorded inside the classroom. The fact that they know that they are being watched reduces the tendency to misbehave. Tell them that you would let the parents watched the recorded video.

7. Change strategies once in a while

It is necessary to change strategies once in a while to make it very effective. Children easily gets bored, that’s their nature. Something new will surprise them and motivates them.

Most specially, you have to act that you are the boss and you are the authority in the classroom. If you give any sign at all that you are NOT in FULL CONTROL, children
will sense this and exploit your weaknesses. The teacher must stand firm but applies creative and respectful strategies.

References:

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