DEFINING VOICE LEVEL: AN EFFECTIVE CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

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Any classroom can get uncontrolled noisy and any classroom manager such as the teacher should know how to manage it. The key to managing the voice levels inside a classroom is to teach the students about it and to let them know your expectations. Making the students aware of when it is allowed to talk to their seatmates, to whom they can only talk to or when they are expected to just be silent makes it easier for everybody, both students and teacher, to help each other in controlling their voice levels.

There are different activities occurring in any classroom and as such, it is recommended to standardize the voice levels in each of these situations. This is to teach students what appropriate kind of voice level is intended for each kind of activity. For example, before any activity starts, either inside or outside the classroom, it is important to establish among the students the allowable voice levels. You can say that you will be working on Level 4 (Having Fun) if you are having a playful activity outside the classroom.

Here are the suggested Voice Levels:

Silence.

We have to apply this level especially when students are working solely, answering test, reading silently, and the likes, or even when the teacher is discussing lessons.
Soft Voice.

This is allowed among the students when they are inside a library or when they are allowed to ask questions from their seatmates.

Normal Voice.

This is appropriate especially when students need to work in pairs or in groups of 3 to 5 members wherein in-depth conversations and collaborative discussions are required.

Presenter.

This is encouraged when a student is presenting in front of the class or if he is reciting.

Having Fun.

This is applicable when doing outdoor activities, sports events, and other activities wherein students can’t control their emotions of excitement and happiness.

It will be advisable to discuss these voice levels with all the students at the start of the class and then establish the appropriate level before an activity starts.

There are some teachers who prefer to define their student’s voice level depending on the distance. In other words, they will be asking the students to have a certain voice level for one-meter distance, two-meter distance and so forth. But this will be confusing.
to many students and it will be difficult to define especially for the Level 2 (Normal Voice).

There are times when students are working together and their voice levels are getting higher. Though there are some teachers who will reprimand students immediately for this, it is good to be reminded that this is normal and what is more important is that the students are learning something. But during the times that the students are talking simultaneously and you cannot get hold of their attention anymore, you can ask the whole class to stand up for a while. Then ask them again to sit down and sit properly so they will realize that they need to go back to Level 0 (Silence) again or to keep silent. Or during very noisy times, you can ask them to line up outside.

There were those times that a teacher became exasperated with the uncontrollable noise that his/her class produced. But thanks to creative educators who come up with these solutions and shared them with us. Teachers will have many options to try and all they need to do is to apply them.

References:

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