EFFECTIVE CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

by:

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Classroom management is the manner of guaranteeing that classroom lessons run smoothly without disruptive behavior from learners and the delivery of instruction is not compromised. In a classroom full of unruly students who are unable to focus on the lesson, classroom management techniques may get things back on track. Making meaningful connections with students is one of the most effective ways to prevent disruptions. When learners fall through the cracks, it can be addressed through a relationship reflection form. This can help teachers take notes on each individual student and highlight ones who need the most attention.

Use positive communication techniques. Open-ended questions, reflective listening, validation statements, expressions of enthusiasm or interest, and compliments help student participate into classroom discussions. Shy or introvert learners could also benefit with this approach. Teachers may emphasize too much on academics. Supporting students’ emotional well-being could be neglected, and slowly using up the banked time they initially built up with students. Teachers can maintain relationships by continuing to implement these strategies, and in addition they can:

- Pay attention to positive and negative interactions with students.
- Always check in with students.
- Praise or reward good behavior.

Repairing harm before things get worse. Undesirable interactions such as misunderstandings, conflict, or criticism can weaken a teacher-student relationship. If these negative interactions are left unresolved, students may feel disengaged and be less willing to participate in activities. They may also be more likely to misbehave, creating further damage.
Thus it is a must for teachers to “intentionally reconnect” with students to restore the relationship to a positive state.

When relationships need repair, teachers can:

- **Let go and start fresh.** Teachers should avoid emphasizing pupil’s mistakes, instead giving them a chance to start each day with a clean slate.

- **Take responsibility for their actions.** Avoid blaming students when things go wrong, and think, “What could I have done to avoid the problem in the first place?” They shouldn’t be afraid to apologize when that’s called for — doing so helps build trust with students.

- **Show empathy.** Be aware that there are always two sides to every story, and a teacher can acknowledge that students may have a different perspective about what happened.

- **Focus on solutions, not problems.** Teachers can work with students to find a solution that everyone feels is fair.

- **Separate the deed from the doer.** It’s important to criticize the behavior, not the person. If teachers label children as “problem students,” there’s a danger that they’ll internalize that label, making it more likely that they’ll repeat the behavior in the future.

Effective classroom management starts with relationship building. When students feel a greater sense of belonging, they’re more likely to be academically engaged and demonstrate positive behavior.

References:

www.edutopia.org/article/key-effective-classroom-management