Helpful Tips and Strategies for Effective Classroom Management
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Most of the problems encountered both by new and experienced teachers nowadays are those students who were undisciplined. Classroom discipline and management causes the most fear and consternation especially in new teachers. However, this is a skill that is not only learned but practiced daily. Classroom management combined with an effective discipline plan is the key.

To facilitate effective classroom management, the following tips and strategies will surely help you.

1. Notice Your Students. One of the most important parts of managing classroom is to notice students. To become an effective classroom manager, she has to know what she’s dealing with. She tries to learn their names as quickly as possible. Classroom management will be more effective if the teacher is able to direct questions to named pupils and discipline by name if necessary.

2. Plan and Prepare Well. An effective teacher should make sure she knows what are expected of her to teach and the materials and methods are likewise ready for use. Pupils respond better to confident, knowledgeable teachers who care enough about them to prepare good, interesting lessons, who give regular, positive and constructive feedback and who are able to use humor to good effect.

3. Make The Best Use of Your Classroom. Classroom layout can vary depending on the size of the room, the teaching styles, the type of classes and the nature of the learning activity.

4. Start Fresh Every day. Begin each class period with a positive attitude and high expectations. Wear a smile all the time and everything will go for the best the whole day long.

5. Act Confident. Be as confident as possible in delivering lessons and in classroom management.

6. Be Firm and Fair. Students have a distinct sense of what is and what is not fair. An effective teacher must act fairly for all students to gain respect. She has to make sure that if the best student’s does something wrong they too get punished for it.

7. Be Consistent. One of the worst things the teacher can do is to not enforce the rules consistently. The students have the right to expect from their teacher to basically be the same every day. Once she loses her students respect, she also loses their attention and their desire to please her too.

8. Keep High Expectations in Your Class. Expect that students will behave, not that they will disrupt. The teacher must reinforce this with the way she speaks to her students. To begin with the day, she must tell her students of her expectations.

9. Pre-empt Difficult Situations. Think out possible strategies and stock responses to fall back on during challenging behavior management situations. This will help the teacher deal with the problem, situations in a more confident, calm and considered way with less risk of losing it and making the situation worse. Well prepared is fore-armed.

10. Give Reinforcement Activities. Free time is something teachers should avoid. Give additional activities to reinforce lessons learned and to keep them enjoy the activities as they learn.

11. Make Rules Understandable. An effective classroom manager needs to be selective in class rules and to make them clear. Students should understand what is and what is not acceptable. Further, she should make sure that the consequences for breaking the rule are also clear and known beforehand.
12. Avoid Confrontations in Front of Students. As a teacher, she needs to keep order and discipline in her class. However, it is much better to deal with discipline issues privately than cause a student to lose ‘face’ in front of their friends.

13. Give Regular Praise and Constructive Feedback. Praise and encouragement are powerful motivations. Give it regularly to individual pupils for good/improved behavior and/or performance as well as to the whole class.

14. Use Positive Reinforcement. This is used to manage behavior by giving something to a student to make a behavior happen again. That “something” that the teacher can give to students can be as simple compliment or reward incentives. Either way, students respond well to positive reinforcement. The teacher needs to do this in order to encourage positive behavior in addition to discouraging poor behavior.

15. Let It Go at the End of the Day. Classroom management and disruption issues should be left in class so that the teacher can have door time to recharge before coming back to another day of teaching.

As a teacher you probably already apply some of these tips and strategies in your classroom. Just remember that it takes time, thought and effort to successfully implement all of them into your teaching. Just try these, go over them each day before school begins until it becomes natural.

A class can be considered “well-disciplined” when students and teachers are working effectively together to attain their educational goals.

References:
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