PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION ABOUT DISCIPLINE ISSUE

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There are many kinds of conversations with the parents but one of the hardest is talking about disciplinary issues of their children. There will come a time when a parent questions you as a teacher about your disciplinary styles or your reason for disciplining their kids. This only means that they don't agree with the way you discipline and it is not rare that they will offer some suggestions on how to do it right. When you have to deal with an irate or a visibly unsatisfied parent, the following steps may help:

Be understanding. As a teacher, we just need to understand that this kind of parents is just frustrated after making their child accountable for their actions. Most of them are coming from being hurt that their children are not behaving well.

Let them and keep calm. Whatever they say, even if they are already angry, let them vent and just smile. Do this even if you are talking to them thru the phone and thank them for taking the time to talk to you. By doing this, you won't feed their anger and they will feel good that you treated them professionally, and hopefully, you will gain their trust.

Listen to them. Just listen to all that they have to say. There are parents who just simply want to vent their frustrations and they only need someone who will listen to them. Do not interrupt them and do not say anything that is against their beliefs in the middle of their moment. Just listen and thank them afterward for letting you know of their concerns and for supporting their child.
Be direct. When the parent has already finished their piece and somewhat open to recommendations, tell them directly that you are the one who leads your classes. Explain to them calmly that you believe that all your students have the right to learn and to study in a conducive environment without any obstacles. More so, explain that it is your job to protect that right by establishing classroom rules and regulations. As such, you cannot allow any of your students to do whatever they want especially if it will disturb other classes. If you do otherwise, you will lose control of your classes and learning will suffer. Most importantly, disciplining students by making them face the consequences of their actions develops their sense of responsibility and prevents them from doing bad things again. The students have to realize that it is part of their education to own up to their actions and its consequences so they will be more prepared to real life outside of the school.

Hopefully, parents may understand and accept your explanations. If they react otherwise, as long as you stayed calm, it is not your problem anymore.

References:

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