WHAT TO DO WHEN A STUDENT WILL NOT FOLLOW YOUR INSTRUCTION

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Have you implemented clear, concise and consistent instructions into your lessons but are still having trouble getting some of your students to follow them? If you are going to get your students to try and do as you ask, it all has to begin with your attitude. Your attitude is what dictates your approach when dealing with challenging behavior, you must conveying the appropriate attitude to your students that may lead to positive classroom behavior.

Even though some educators display good control by utilizing a bullying, punitive and aggressive attitude, their control really only exists on the surface. It may seem that you have your pupils under control, but underneath the surface of their reluctant compliance lays embarrassment, fear, hostility, and a desire to either retaliate in some way or get away from you. Certainly, this isn’t the ideal way to get the best out of your students or in building a healthy classroom environment.

If you shout orders at a child, you’re off to a nasty start. The most effective way to get on the wrong side of someone is to shout at them and tell them to do something they are reluctant to do. And with a challenging student, you’ll multiply this effect exponentially. Add to this the fact that there are probably 30 other kids within the room who enjoy seeing arguments and you can see why this could go badly. Many students actually attempt to get their teachers to lose their tempers and their control, because they find it amusing or entertaining. That’s why you must keep your composure when managing a classroom.
A good way to avoid confrontation is to give the children a fair warning. Explain first exactly what they are doing wrong, and what they ought to be doing instead. This gives them no reason to get back at you because you can’t argue with the truth. You have clearly explained to them what’s wrong with their behavior and what is expected of them. This will make it impossible for the children to defend their behavior. Also, the other students within the classroom will see that you are being fair. Students who are fairly treated, find it very difficult to argue with your instructions because they know that the remainder of the class will view them being in the wrong, and that’s the last thing that they want to happen.

So, when managing with challenging and difficult to handle students, always remember to stay calm and consistent. If you consistently follow the same discipline patterns for every student, then no student can argue about you being unfair or playing favorites. This also establishes clear boundaries that students are going to be very clear about. Students are always trying to bend and push boundaries, but if you’re in line with your rules and clear on your behavior standards, they’re going to quickly realize that your rules aren’t bendable and that they will comply. And lastly, being calm, and refraining from yelling, further shows your control of the situation. After all, most misbehaving students are only trying to find attention.

References:

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