

Classroom Management

Not sure how to incorporate effective discipline in the classroom? Use these helpful tips.

- Together as a class, have the kids help make a list of rules. Begin with brainstorming; then pick only three or four rules to follow. Write them down and display them on a poster for all to see. Talk about what might happen, such as sitting in a chair away from everyone else, if they do not follow the rules.
- Try to see problems before they arise. Tell kids your expectations before you begin an activity. If a student is being disruptive, try to get eye contact and give him “a look.” The next step is to move closer to the child without speaking. If the child still is not listening, touch his shoulder. If none of these steps work in getting the child to focus on the task at hand, calmly ask the child to sit in a chair away from the group.
- To get your class to quiet down, clap a beat and have them clap it back to you. Soon they will be clapping instead of talking.
- Have the whole class work for a reward for good behavior. Put a jar where everyone can see it. When the class is working well, drop in marbles or something else that makes a noise. When the jar is full, give the class a reward. The reward could be a special snack, an extra game, or stickers.
- Have your class follow the directions you give them in a soft voice. You may ask them to run in place or pat their heads. Soon they will all be quiet so they can hear your next instruction.
- Preventing problems:
 - Develop an atmosphere of love and acceptance
 - Provide meaningful activities
 - Set realistic standards that can be enforced
 - Recognize accomplishments and good behavior
- Handling a child with ADD or ADHD:
 - Give special love and attention
 - Enlist additional teachers to help in class
 - Involve the child in primarily quiet activities
 - Minimize distractions, close window shades, and move chairs so they are not facing open doors
 - Keep the child on task

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- Individual discipline problems:

- Be positive
- Reprimand in private
- Focus on the child's strong points
- Be flexible
- Remain calm
- Overlook unimportant matters

- Correcting behavior problems:

- Deal with the problem individually
- Have the child tell what he or she did
- Be sure the child understands why the behavior is not acceptable in the classroom
- Redirect the child to change his behavior in a positive manner
- Let the child experience the consequences of his behavior

- Be proactive in classroom management:

- Be prepared and start class on time
- Have extra activities planned
- Be confident and in control
- Know when to use logical consequences
- Eliminate power struggles
- Give kids choices

- Handling a child who is bored:

- Challenge the child with a special task
- Provide choices in things to do and ways to do them
- Incorporate activities that are of interest to the child
- Accept the child's feelings

- Handling a child with aggressive behaviors:

- Affirm positive behavior
- Show the child your acceptance
- Remove the child if aggressive behavior can become harmful to others. Explain the behavior necessary to return