

Dear Parents,

As we continue working on expectations, this week we are focusing on classroom management and managing student behaviors -- how a teacher runs a classroom, keeping students focused on learning and following procedures. Classroom management is extremely important for keeping classrooms efficient and safe.

This week, I had a college student shadow me. She plans to be an educator, and we spent part of the morning observing a variety of classrooms. I told her that classroom management was typically the most difficult part of teaching, especially for new teachers. Think about managing your own children at home and the challenges you face. Then, think about having 25 children in one room. Management is essential.

Successfully managing a classroom involves monitoring all transitions and routines. It's organization of materials and data, and even how the teacher circulates through the room. Teachers have to define expectations clearly and to be consistent in reinforcing them throughout the day. They need to know what instructional methods work with each student, and then make judgments about how to meet individual student needs. Teachers have to be attentive to everything going on in the classroom -- even to be attuned to children's thoughts and feelings.

Classroom management includes teachers' striving to create welcoming environments that are engaging, positive and respectful. A teacher's feedback to a student should be supportive and age-appropriate, and teachers should do their best to correct behavior immediately and subtly without interrupting the flow of instruction. Every classroom teacher has a procedure for responding to misbehavior and for correcting that misbehavior before having to issue a pink or white slip.

Just like anything, teaching is a learning process. No teacher goes into the classroom knowing everything about classroom management, and each year there is some trial-and-error, because all groups of students are different. Providing support for teachers is critical, from the administration as well as from fellow teachers. Teaching is a job that includes a lot of preparation and work outside the classroom. We appreciate all the hard work our teachers do, and we thank our parents for your support.

Many blessings,

Paula Smith, Ed.S.  
Principal