

F CONNECTION

Getting Off To A Good Start!

Many discipline problems can be prevented if the school year begins on the right foot. There are simple steps you can take to make your classroom conducive to good learning. Take a look at the following suggestions and see if they will help:

1. Be ready the first week of school. Students will look you over, talk you over, and work you over.
2. Punish the individuals causing any problems, not the whole class.
3. Develop room standards. Let your students know what is expected from their behavior.
4. Begin your class promptly every day.
5. Be prepared, but be flexible when the need arises. Have alternate plans ready for "rainy days", emergencies, substitutes, etc.
6. Evaluate yourself. Students learn by what they see. Your self-confidence, personal appearance, manners, promptness, fairness, enthusiasm, voice, sense of humor, optimism, understanding, and values contribute to the effectiveness of your discipline.
7. Set the climate of the classroom by the manner in which the students enter and leave the classroom.
8. Anticipate potential problems.
9. Do not threaten anything that cannot be carried out.
10. Be firm. Do not be afraid to stand your ground if behavior is not acceptable.
11. Be impartial and fair.
12. Reject the behavior, not the child. Try not to take unacceptable behavior personally.
13. Do not argue! If you are enforcing a school rule there is no place for an argument.
14. Never punish in the heat of anger. Take 15 minutes for all parties to cool down.
15. Remember, we all have good days and bad days. So do children!