

Dealing With The Dishonest Child

Dealing with a dishonest child can be an exasperating experience. The dishonest child will exhibit the following characteristics.

- * Takes things from other children or from the teacher.
- * Steals items even though he/she does not need them.
- * Lies when he/she is caught.
- * Cheats on tests.
- * Lacks respect for property.
- * Puts his/her name on papers that other students have completed.

Here are some classroom management techniques that you can try in resolving this conflict.

1. Remove temptations from the student.
2. Have a parent conference. Obtain more information about the student in question.
3. Remove the pressure for cheating. Use tests for their intended purpose, to determine where more instruction is needed.
4. When administering a test, separate students or provide desk-size study carrels.
5. Provide a way to recognize the attention-seeking student on a regular basis.
6. Try not to over-react when a dishonest act takes place.
7. Warn your students to safeguard their possessions and to leave their valuables at home. If possible, have students mark their possessions.
8. Never accuse or imply a dishonest act unless it is proven. Never force a confession out of a student. Avoid moralizing. If a dishonest act takes place, confront the student in private in a calm manner.

Remember, most children steal or lie at one time or another and most cheating is bred from fear of failure. Try to understand why the student did what he/she did and make sure he/she does not get away with the dishonest act.