

Teacher Behavior: The Key To Discipline

The age old problem of classroom discipline is always recurring. The behavior of the teacher can have a positive or negative effect on student discipline in the classroom. The teacher who shouts will have students who shout. The teacher who slams doors when irritated will have students that will do the same. The students are mirror images of the classroom teacher.

Students can sense the way a teacher feels about his/her work. As they pick up on these vibrations, the students reflect these feelings in their own attitudes and behaviors. Here lies the problem.....and the solution.

Listed below are steps that the classroom teacher might take into consideration to help alleviate a discipline problem before it gets started.

1. Set a good example. Remember, the students will become what the teacher is. Show them that you are concerned with their well-being. Be positive and work on each student's strong points instead of tearing down or harping on the negative. Be enthusiastic! A dull teacher or dull classroom breeds disruptive behavior.
2. Share the load in the classroom. Do not expect the students to do everything. Do not make yourself the king or queen and your students the peasants. The more they respect you, the less hassles you will have.
3. Act like a professional. Downgrading students, fellow teachers, parents and administrators in public will destroy classroom respect. You need the respect of parents and peers as well as the respect of your students.
4. Be on time. Be in the class before your students if you expect them to be on time. Being late and not having your class settled will only mean trouble. Being on time could save you a lot of grief.
5. Develop a good attitude. If you do not like your job, find another position. And by all means, if you do not like children, select another profession! Students are quick to detect how you feel about your teaching profession. We have to develop our own attitudes before we can help develop student attitudes.