

The Threat Of Discipline

There are many discipline techniques that are very effective. Some techniques work in a classroom for a given period of time, then a new discipline approach must be utilized. Many techniques will be tried and discarded within a classroom.

One method which seems to be overused and ineffective in all classrooms involves the use of threats. This type of discipline usually manages to back the teacher against the wall. Threats make any discipline technique less effective due to the inability or lack of desire to carry out most threats.

Any threats must be able to be carried out. It is common for a threat to be given on which the teacher never intends to follow through. As students begin to realize that teachers do not mean what they say, threats become useless. Think twice before using a threat.

Also, consider the effectiveness of a threat. Does the threat really solve the problem? In most cases it becomes destructive rather than constructive discipline.

Finally, consider the detrimental effects of the threat on the student and the teacher. Following through with a threat may have a negative emotional impact on a student as well as require additional duties on the part of the teacher. For example, when a student is told he/she will miss noon recess if morning work is not completed, both the student and teacher are being punished. The student misses an important time for social interaction and physical activity, and the teacher must remain in the room to supervise.

There are many classroom management techniques which effectively deal with behavior problems. Students are to be treated with respect, and dealt with firmly but kindly. Reverting to the use of threats will not help in maintaining an enjoyable learning environment.