

Classroom Management

Creating an Environment Conducive to Making Disciples:

1. Discipline: comes from same root word as DISCIPLE = to learn (much of discipline is preventative)
2. Goal: use discipline as tool for making disciples
3. This is about coaching, not enforcing or punishing. Your goal and the goal of the student should be the same: A productive class session that helps form disciples.
4. Begins with **your** attitude: self-confident, positive, pro-active (pre-empt), love for children, be well-prepared and organized.
5. Keep your sense of humor. Be firm, but kind.

How to do this:

- Set clear expectations. Make them concise and clear.
- Model, model, model.

This seven-step format not only shows children exactly what to do, it guides them into noticing key elements of the modeling lesson, and gives them opportunities for practice while the teacher coaches.

1. Describe a positive behavior you will model.
2. Model the behavior.
3. Ask students what they noticed.
4. Ask student volunteers to model the same behavior.
5. Ask students what they noticed.
6. Have the class practice.
7. Provide feedback.

- Consistently coach and reinforce expectations.
Do this without interrupting your teaching. A touch, a look, a small gesture, can all help to refocus a student without breaking your stride.
- Consistently deal with 'breaches'.
Notice HOW you deal with it. Compare, "Billie, what would be the best thing for you to be doing right now?" to "BILLIE!!! I told you to pick up a pencil and begin working!" In other words, allow students to self-correct.

*Confront and identify the **behavior**, not the student.*

- Respond with logical consequences.
Think in terms of penance (returning to the right path) and never punishment.
- If a student is obstinately refusing to work or cooperate, has harmed or is about to harm a person or property, or if s/he is otherwise unable to cope in the classroom, call one of us (Cathy or David) to bring him/her out of the classroom.