Classroom Management Philosophy Plan

Lydia Springer

University of Mary

Table of Contents

Philosophy of Classroom Management

The classroom is the one place in which teachers have the opportunity to make a difference in their students lives. This influence needs to be used to create a learning environment where students know they matter. Establishing a plan to form a healthy atmosphere is every teacher's priority. The three most important aspects about this classroom should be a safe zone where students know they are valued, materials that will enhance academic growth and stimulate a love for learning, and a competent instructor, who has their students' best interests at heart.

Classroom Setup

In the ideal classroom there is space to allow for individual work and group work with room in there for the teacher to walk among the students. For my classroom I would want my students in groups of about 4-5 spread out in the room with plenty of aisle space (see Appendix #1). In this set up it would provide students with space in their desks for materials and in the middle of the desk group. I would also want a carpet up front for my students to sit on to ensure that for group instruction I have everyone up front and paying attention. The carpet would be right in front of the whiteboard and to the side by the door would be my desk, so I can keep the clickers to the whiteboard in my desk drawers and away from students.

The teachers desk should also be near the door, so students can turn in exit slips and I can monitor who comes in and out of my classroom. I also like the idea of having my own lighting in the room so I do not have to use the florescent lights. I would either rely on natural lighting or I would bring in string lighting and light stands. In a study, done by researchers in South Korea on lighting in classrooms, it showed that dynamic lighting could greatly help student academic

performance (Choi and Suk, 2016). Lighting is an important part of the classroom because you do not want students to stain their eyes from not enough light but also you do not want them to strain their eyes from too harsh a light.

First Day Introduction

The first day in the classroom is what sets the tone for the rest of the year. However, I think this is the day to show your students that this is a safe zone and to help them feel at home rather than a day to go through all the rules or procedures. I think it is a good idea to already have posters of your procedures up on the walls for future reference, but I think those could be something to go over later in the week. The only procedure I would want to cover is what to do at the start of class (see Appendix #2). This will help, if only a little, with the second day of class. In our textbook Wong says that it is important to model this and have the students get up and practice it that first day, so they will know what to do on the second day, probably with some prompting (2014, p. 62).

I want to start off the day by being outside of my classroom greeting students and their parents. This will help me get to know their names and start right away with establishing a connection with not only the student but their parents as well. The most important thing the students need to know in this first day is where their desk is. This will give them a place that they know is theirs and give them a sense of belonging in this classroom.

First Week of Class

In the first week of classes this is where it is very important to set up a base for a good relationship with all the students. This can be accomplished by greeting them at the door and spending time getting to know all of them. It would be a good idea to have them fill out a survey

asking what the teacher should be aware of to help them succeed (see Appendix #3). For this

first week of classes I would just want to get the students used to each other (see Appendix #4).

I would also go through the rest of the procedures, so I can get them used to them and eventually

turn them into routines (see Appendix #5).

Connections to students and families

It is important that families stay informed on how their students are doing in school not

only academically but socially as well. I would want to call or email parents every two weeks

with a short letter on what the students have been doing in school and how their student

specifically has been doing (see Appendix #6). This will also be documentation in case I am

trying to get a parent to come in to see me because of a behavior.

What If? Behavior Plan

Having a plan in place for behavior is one of the most important components of every

classroom management plan. There should be a plan in place for both good and bad behaviors.

In the beginning of school, I would want to have the students come up with some rules they think

we should have in our class. Then they can all vote on which five we should have. Then we

would create a poster and all sign it (see Appendix #7). This would create ownership of the rules

and would not be some rules that I am enforcing on them but ones they chose themselves.

I would like to implement the Love and Logic theory of giving choices. In their book,

Jim and Charles Fay talk about giving students choices and giving them some control (2016, p.

28). Instead of forcing a student to do something your way, work with them and come to a

compromise. This would also help in de-escalating behavior as well. It is always important to

remember to reward good behavior even more than punishing negative behavior. Marzano says,

"Human beings do best in an environment of feedback…" (2003, p. 28). Teachers need to be

specific when telling the students what they are doing wrong and what they need to be doing.

Conclusion

This Classroom Management Plan should provide students with a safe environment,

materials that will be most beneficial for their academic growth, and a teacher who knows the

material and is invested in all the students' wellbeing. I, as a teacher, need to make sure all my

students feel respected and valued because only then will they progress. I created this plan with

the students' interests at heart and have tried to incorporate their opinions and beliefs into my

classroom as much as possible. It all starts with their connection to their teacher; if they have a

good relationship based on respect with their teacher and peers they will succeed in the

classroom. The teacher's job is to foster these relationships and help the student flourish.

References

Choi, K., & Suk, H. (2016, April 26). Dynamic lighting system for the learning environment:

performance of elementary students. *Optics Express*, *24*(10)

Fay, C., & Fay, J. (2016). *Teaching with Love and Logic: Taking Control of the Classroom*. N.p.:

Love & Logic Institute, Inc.

Marzano, R. J. (2003). *Classroom Management That Works: Research-Based Strategies for*

Every Teacher. N.p.: Assn for Supervision & Curriculum.

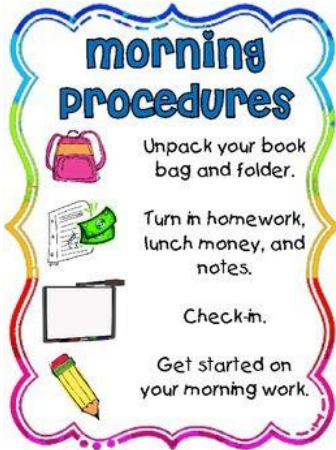Wong, H.K., & Wong, R.T. (2014). *The Classroom Management Book.* Mountain View, Ca:

Harry K. Wong Publications, Inc.

.

Appendix

1. Classroom seating

2. Start of the Day Procedure

3. Example of Beginning of the Year Survey

STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

Full Name: _____ Date of
birth: _____
Parent/guardian's names:
_____
_____

Mailing Address: (street or PO Box) _____

(town)_____

Parent/guardian's phone number: (home)_____ (cell)

_____

Parent/guardian's E-mail address: _____Your E-mail

address: _____

Do you have access to the Internet at home? _____

- Do you have any health issues I should know about? _____ If so, what are they? _____

- List after school activities in which you participate (sports, band, work, etc.):
- Who lives with you at home?

_____

- What is your favorite band or who is your favorite singer/band?

_____

- One word that describes you as a person: _____ One word that describes school: _____
- What is your favorite TV show?

_____

- What is your favorite movie?

_____

- What is your favorite place to eat?

_____

- What is your favorite candy or dessert? _____ Are you allergic to any food? _____ Please list food allergies:

- What was your favorite class last year? Why?

- If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? Who would you take with you? Why?

- What are some things the teacher could do to help you in school? Ex. Do you need to be close to the board to see? Do you have trouble with fidgeting or sitting still?
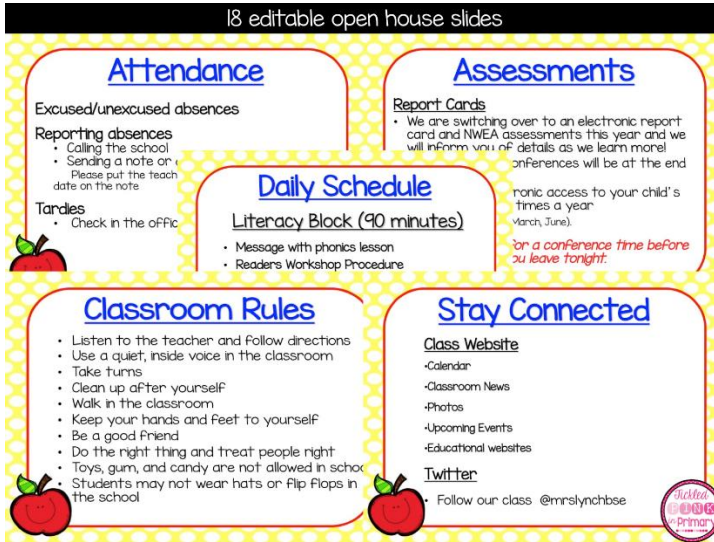
Above And Beyond: On the back, please write a paragraph about yourself. Tell me anything else that you want me to know about you. Please do your very best work.

4. Ice Breaker

https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/blog-posts/genia-connell/10-fun-back-school-activities-and-icebreakers/.

5. Procedure Posters

   I would go through and this PowerPoint with my class and would write them on a poster to hang in the room as we were talking about them.

6. Example Letter to Parents

April 20, 2012

Dear Parents,

Hello! My name is Sarah Eager and I will be Mrs. Teacher's substitute this spring. I have spent this week observing Mrs. Teacher and getting to know your children and their classroom. I am excited to spend the last few months of kindergarten with them. Mrs. Teacher and I have worked hard together to ensure that this is a smooth transition for everyone.

I have been teaching kindergarten at ABC Elementary for the past year and a half. I am excited to be joining the DEF family and getting to know you and your children. The end of kindergarten is such a special time of year and I am looking forward to helping the students transition into first graders.

I would like to invite you to stop into the classroom and meet me afterschool next Wednesday, April 25th anytime between 3:30pm and 6:00pm. Feel free to stop in at anytime. There will not be a formal presentation, I will just be in the classroom preparing materials and getting organized. This will also be a good time to discuss anything that you feel is important that I know about your child. If you would like to meet with me and this time does not work for you, please feel free to send in a note with your child or email me at (email) and we can set up another time. Thank you and have a great weekend!

Sincerely,

Miss Sarah Eager

7. Example Rule Poster