

Classroom Management Final Paper

University of Mary

When first making the decision to become a teacher, one does not think about classroom management, or really even know what classroom management is and what it entails. I know this to be true because it is not something I had thought about until I was told to, much less did I realize how much of what happens in the classroom is considered classroom management. In order to have a classroom that is a safe and good place for the students to learn, they will not be able to focus. Classroom management also will help the teacher keep some form of organization with the class throughout the day. The students should be made aware of what is expected from them and what they are supposed to be doing at a given time. Classroom management can be implemented by using different procedures and routines in the classroom on a daily basis that the students have practices and know how to do it.

My classroom management philosophy for in the classroom will be mainly based on conscious discipline but it will also use a lot of love and logic techniques. The students in the classroom will help provide a clean, effective and safe learning space for themselves and their fellow classmates. The students, with the help from the teacher, will do this by implementing and practicing procedures and routines. The students will acknowledge when they do something wrong, and they will take responsibility for their own actions. The classroom will be a place of positivity where the students will learn to find success within failure, and where they feel safe enough to ask for help if and when they need it.

One thing that I would like to stress in my classroom is the importance of the classroom family and the students' families being a part of their education. The classroom family and the students' family are two different things but they are both very important and they play a large

role in the education of a student. The classroom family is the students and the teacher and the trust and relationships that are being built up during the schools hours. These relationships are important to make the students feel like they are in a safe and controlled environment, and so they are able to learn to the best of their ability. Having a good relationship with their peers in the class will allow them to feel safe and comfortable asking questions, and it will also help them develop appropriate and developmentally correct social skills, which are critical to the development of a student. Having a good and open relationship with the teacher is also very important, it opens up a line of communication between the teacher and student, allowing the student to share any concerns or fears that they may be having. Having this relationship with the students also allows the teacher to communicate with them more effectively and to allow the teacher to understand the students and how to teach them as best as they are able to, in different teaching styles.

It is also very important for the students' family to be involved with the classroom and their students' education. When the parents show interest in their student and what they are learning, it makes the student want to do better and they feel as if what they are learning is truly important. By including the parents it will show an increase in the students' academic skills, their behavior in the classroom will improve because they know there is an open line of communication between their teacher and parent or guardian, to talk about anything that might have happened that day. Lastly, if the parents are showing interest in the students education, it will improve the students motivation in the classroom. This is very important because if the student does not come ready to learn and wants to participate and be present in class, they will not retain what they need to know. Parent involvement is also very important in classroom

management because they are able to help the teacher, from being an in class teacher helper or an extra set of hands to help with a craft project, to being able to chaperone class field trips that require parent volunteers. To start this line of communication to the parents and the classroom, I will send a letter home either before the school year on an open house night for the parents introducing myself and my plan for the year. Also outlining anything that they might need to know for the upcoming school year such as times and dates. I will also include all of my own contact information in this letter home. See Appendix A for an example of the letter home I would like to send.

The first few weeks and especially the first few days of the school year are vital in how the rest of the school year is going to play out and if the students are going to understand and respect you as a teacher. In the three days of the school year all of the new procedures and routines will be implemented and practiced. A procedure that might seem very simple to the teacher, might be more confusing for the students because it is not the same as the procedure that they did last year. This is why allowing time for the students to learn, practice and fully master the concept is important. Some of the procedures that I find to be very important to teach in the first few days of school are the bathroom procedure, the lining up procedure, turning in homework and classroom work procedure. Please see Appendix B for a detailed schedule of the first 3 days of school. Some other things I would like to talk to the students about is what is expected from them in the morning and what it looks like to be prepared for class to start. Also, I would like to talk to the students about what happens when they are doing something wrong in the classroom, I would not like to in sense call them out in front of the entire class, rather I really liked the idea of the pink slips form Chelonnda Seroyer in the “First day of School” video. This

allows the students to take responsibility for their actions and it also provides proof of the students actions if that was something that was ever needed, to show the parents or to show the principle if a problem ever occurred that was big enough to take the the parents or the principle.

It is very important for a teacher especially in their first year teaching to understand the different routines and procedures that are used in the school, for school events such as a convocation, mass or a school assembly. I remember in high school everyday, we had an all school convocation, where we would talk about sporting events for that week, other school news and we would have someone speak on a topic the school found to be important for us to learn. I was in a class with a teacher that was new to the school and no one had told him what this was that we had to go to everyday, and we all thought it was strange that he was working at the school but did not know some of the school's procedures. This is one of the main reasons that I find it important to know the schools procedures, some of them might be school wide, like the procedure for a fire drill, a lockdown, or a tornado. All of these have different procedures that will be different in every classroom, but they are all equally important for the teacher to have an understanding of before the start of the school year. The students will pick up on if the teacher knows what they are doing and it will set the stage for the entire rest of the year. The parents also like to know that the teacher is well prepared if anything was to happen.

One of the main focuses in my future classroom will be organization and safety. I want the students to understand that their safety is important and so we will have a conversation at the start of the year and write down key points in how to keep ourselves and our classmates safe. Having the students come up on these key points makes it so they know what they're supposed to be doing because they came up with the safety rules on their own. This will also give the

students a sense of pride because it is something that they created to make the classroom their own. This can be used really at any age because the older the students get the more they need to feel like the classroom is a safe place where they are comfortable that nothing will happen to them there.

Organization in the classroom is also extremely important, this can either be the students organization, the organization of where things are and where they are put after we are done using them. But this can also mean being ready for the lesson and being prepared to teach a specific lesson. Teaching the students different organizational techniques to keep desks or lockers neat will help the lost homework problem or even the forgetting to bring something home to the parents. These are skills that the students can use for the rest of their lives, organization is an important life skill to have. Having a specific place for items is important for the students because they will always know where they are able to find something specific and where they are to put their work after they have finished it. This gives the students a sense of belonging because they know if someone else was to walk into the classroom they would not know where to put things or where they could get the things that they needed for the project they were working on, and the students from the classroom would be able to help them. It is also very important for the teachers to be organized. They should keep a schedule of when things will be returned to students and they should know where they are putting the students' work. Teachers should also be organized for the lessons that they need to teach that day and even that week. They should have the supplies and the knowledge to effectively teach a lesson and to be able to answer the questions that students might have. Without an organized classroom, the classroom turns into a mess and that will make it very hard for any student to learn in that environment.

When in the classroom setting a teacher never knows what is going to happen and what is going to go wrong. This means that a teacher needs to be prepared for anything and everything that comes their way, whether it is from a student, bringing up a topic that is something that you have not heard before or from a parent that wants to know information on their student, or that is angry about a certain grade that their child received on a homework assignment. This will be a stressful situation in which one does not really know what is going to happen. But if you remember to stay in the upper brain with your thinking and you wait and allow the students and parents to also return to the upper level of thinking it will be much easier for a teacher to attempt to solve the problem in a controlled and rational way. I also believe that as a teacher you have to be prepared for anything to happen and students might not respond well to certain strategies and procedures that you would like to use in your classroom and when this happens you have to be prepared to teach the lesson in a different way. And you have to be open to changing some of the procedures if we as a class have practiced and worked hard to make them perfect and they still are not working. We have to be open into trying something else and maybe allowing the students to come up with some of their own procedures for things, so that they have more of a feeling of belonging in the classroom. There will be a lot of what ifs that are popping up through the school year and they are things that we will have to work through when the time comes to that. I believe that teaching is a lot of thinking on your feet about what is best for a student, and there will not always be a plan when you enter a situation.

In conclusion, before taking this class and really thinking about the different types of classroom management, I was not prepared to enter a classroom and maintain control. I did not know everything that went into classroom management. Even as a student I did not realize how

much a teacher was doing when setting up different routines and procedures, but all of those things were set in place and so the class was about to stay on task and get things done as easily and as efficiently as possible. I believe that with a good classroom management strategy, every classroom can run smoothly without too many things going wrong throughout the day. Having good classroom management skills will help the teacher make decisions throughout the day. Also it can help with how many small questions a teacher is asked on a day like where to find paper or scissors. This can all be solved with good procedures and good routines that are set for the students to follow.

References

Bailey, B. (2014). *Conscious Discipline: Building resilient classrooms*. Loving Guidance, Inc.: Oviedo, FL.

Seroyer, C. (2020). *First Days of School*. Harry K. Wong Publications.

Appendix A

Welcome to Room 203:

Hello New friends and the Families of my new friends. I wanted to write a short letter to you all telling you a little bit about myself and a few things that you will be able to expect from me in this next coming school year!

My name is Ms. Smith, I graduated from the University of Mary in 2022, with my bachelors degree in Elementary Education. I enjoy playing with my dog Mocha, going for long walks, my favorite color is red and my favorite season is

the fall. I also really enjoy coloring in coloring books! I can not wait to learn more about all of you!

Some things I am very passionate about when it comes to the classroom is that an organized classroom will provide a safe and overall better place for students to learn. There will be a few routines and procedures in the classroom that I will ask the students to follow, but they will not be hard at all. I am really looking forward to this next year with all of you!

Parents/ Guardians please if you have any questions, comments, concerns now or at any point in the school year please feel free to reach out to me via my email, or during school hours by the phone number provided. The best way to contact me is by email. I would love to hear from all of you about your student and anything that you might find it important for me to know. Thank you!

Ms. Smith

Appendix B

First 3 Days!

Day 1:

- Find Desks and allow for talking during this time, the students need time to adjust to the new space.
- Play a short get to know you game to get the day started.
- Explain the different procedures and expectations for the students.
- Explain the things that will happen everyday like morning greetings.
- Allow time for students to practice these procedures without any consequence.
- Talk about safety and classroom laws. Allowing the students to add their own.

Day 2:

- Morning meeting allowing the students to share.
- Have students explain the procedures from yesterday and why we do it.
- Practice the procedures.
- Revisit the topic of safety allowing the students to add anything they might have thought of the night before.
- Start a lesson in all subjects, with some small homework assignment.

Day 3:

- Morning meeting
- Turn in homework and make sure the students are all using the correct procedure for turning in homework.
- Go over morning lessons.
- Use the procedures to go to lunch and recess.
- Get back and have the students demonstrate their ready to learn.
- Review on safety in the classroom... again allowing for any changes to be made or added.
- End of day meeting

