Effective Classroom Practices

Classroom Expectations

Practice

Classroom rules/expectations are aligned with school-wide expectations. They are student negotiated, clearly posted, explicitly taught and specifically reinforced.

Research

Rules comprise a limited set of positively stated expectations for behaviour. They should be developed by the teacher, or teacher and students collaboratively and not simply displayed in the classroom. Classroom expectations should be explicitly taught by discussion and practice and applied transparently and equitably (Greenberg, 2013).

A dependable system of rules and procedures provides structure for students and helps them be engaged with instructional tasks (Brophy, 1998).

Implementation

- Involve students in developing the classroom rules.
- Monitor and give frequent feedback when students follow the rules.
- Communicate rules to families and others in the local community.

Classroom rules need to be specifically defined using the five OMPUA guidelines (Observable, Measurable, Positively stated, Understandable, Always applicable). The table below provides a detailed explanation of OMPUA guidelines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guideline</th>
<th>This means</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Non-example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Observable.</td>
<td>I can see it.</td>
<td>Raise hand and wait to be called on.</td>
<td>Be your best.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Measurable.</td>
<td>I can count it.</td>
<td>Bring materials.</td>
<td>Be ready to learn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Positively stated.</td>
<td>I tell students what TO do.</td>
<td>Hands and feet to self.</td>
<td>No fighting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Understandable.</td>
<td>The vocabulary is appropriate for age/stage level.</td>
<td>Hands and feet to self.</td>
<td>Rule for K-1: Maintain personal space. *Children of this age do not have a concept of personal space.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Always applicable.</td>
<td>I am able to consistently enforce it.</td>
<td>Stay in assigned area.</td>
<td>Remain seated until given permission to leave.*Not applicable when students are working on certain types of group projects.</td>
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References


For further support or information:

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Positive Behaviour for Learning Website