

Philosophy of Classroom Management

Ally Dion

University of Mary

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My Philosophy

Becoming a future teacher, I want to provide my students with a safe, welcoming classroom that will capitalize on student success. Student learning and behavior will be overseen in my classroom by routines and procedure. My goal at the beginning of the year is for the students to feel welcomed, and for me to meet that goal, I will use their interests, hobbies, and strengths in the classroom. Students' beliefs, cultural background and values are welcome and will be taken into lesson planning. Students will build a community within the classroom by treating everyone equal and with respect. This paper will discuss my strategies for creating an environment in which it will give students the opportunity to build relationships and to develop learning styles. These strategies are from Harry and Rosemary Wong, and Love and Logic teachings. I will elaborate on my rules and procedures at the beginning of the year and make sure that they are clearly posted in the classroom. I want to make a place that will let students know how to be successful.

Plan for the First Days

The plan for the first day will look much like Wong's theory with procedures and routines. Harry and Rosemary Wong stated, "by establishing a morning or class routine, students will assume ownership of their learning" (Wong & Wong, 2014). The first few weeks will be explanations on how the procedures are to be completed. I want students to feel responsible, and by understanding the routine this will increase the success in the classroom. Along with the procedures, organization will be a major factor with how students succeed in the classroom. I believe that being organized helps with student's learning and behavior. I will have the agenda displayed in the classroom as well as behavior charts, assignment placements, attendance taking,

bell work and repetitive questions. I find having the weekly and daily agenda posted keeps the classroom moving along through the day and also helps with easing students' confusion. These strategies of organization will help students visualize the understanding of what is happening in the classroom. The first few days in the classroom will be full of energy and excitement.

Students will do activities to get to know each other and myself. I will also provide instructional lessons on the little procedures around the classroom, like lining up, and sharpening pencils. These procedures will help with transitions and distractions.

Strategies and Procedures

There are many procedures that make a classroom flow smoothly. I believe that having these few procedures and strategies help make the classroom more successful and an environment in which is ready for student learning. The strategies and procedures that are discussed in this paper are ones that I believe are the most important in my classroom. The first one being the display of an agenda. Having an agenda in the classroom that shows the schedules and objectives will keep the classroom flowing smoothly (see appendix A). Agendas can keep the students on track but also the teacher, it can be used as a reminder for the day. It also helps the students stay focused on the topic. Within the agenda, having pictures of clocks showing the time is also helpful for the students to visually understand time. I will also display the objectives for each subject for the day which will decrease the amount of questions from students asking, "what we are going to do today." Displaying agenda and objectives within the classroom can create an environment for learning.

I believe that turning in assignments is an act of responsibility for students. Having responsibility makes students feel independent and confident. I will have a place in the room that will be designated for turning in assignments, as well as a place for absent students (see appendix

A). It will be the student's responsibility to get missing work completed when they are absent. When a student is absent from class, I will put a slip on their desk reminding them what they need to do. This will help me keep track on attendance but also gives them a little reminder on the procedure.

Mornings are always a little crazy as students are finishing their morning routine. One thing that I want to incorporate in their morning routine is doing the bell work (see appendix A). Bell work will be the last procedure they do before we start class together. I believe that doing an activity before class starts helps with student learning and memory. These mini lessons will calm the students down and will show me that they are ready to begin the day. I will have activities that are from previous lessons. I will incorporate lessons dealing with writing names, phone number, addresses, and birthdays.

Repetitive questions are one of my biggest pet peeves and by displaying posters which explain what students need to do to get their work done or what time we are doing something will help from students asking questions (see appendix A). I also will have reminders on what they can be doing what they are finished with their assignments. This procedure again helps with responsibility, but it also implements their resources. I will provide them the materials they need but they need to understand when it is appropriate to use them.

Another procedure that I want to have in my classroom is what to do when you need to leave the classroom. I think that the easiest way to forming a procedure without having distraction is by using hall passes or some kind of number system (see appendix A). With the hall passes, they will simply take the hall pass which explains where they are going and place it on their desk. That way I know who is out of the room but it will also let the other students know where someone is also and that they will need to wait for them to return to class.

Managing students' behavior is another important strategy in which I want to display in my classroom. I believe that students should be able to take full responsibility for their actions and be able to understand right and wrong. Having some kind of behavior chart or jar will get students an insight of what benefits are when making good choices (see appendix A).

Disciplining in my classroom will not be like most classrooms. I believe that students' behavior is caused by something that is either happening in the classroom or at home. I want to encourage on choosing the right choice, but I will not punish them for making the wrong choice.

Connections with Students and Families

Staying connected with the parents and students will be very important to me. I want to make them feel welcome into my classroom. Communicating through monthly newsletters will be something that I will start before school even starts (see Appendix B). The first letter will discuss what each students needs for the year as well was what the year is going to look like. I want my parents to trust that their child will reach his/her full potential. I will also talk about how all parents are welcomed to the class. I want to encourage them to participate in their child's school year and build a community with the class as well. I believe it is important to have my students see their parents wanting to participate in their classroom.

Appendix A

<p>Agenda</p>	
<p>Assignments</p>	
<p>Bell Work</p>	
<p>Repetitive Questions</p>	

<p>Where are you?</p>		
<p>Behavior Charts</p>		

Appendix B

Dear Parents,

Maggie and I are ready to begin this new year of Faith Formation. We are very excited to have a full first grade class! We hope everyone had a great summer and is ready to learn more about what God has taught us.

With that being said, we are going start that year off with some great bible stories as well as some fun games and activities. This year we want to have you, the parent, be involved with your child's learning in a new way. We have made two "Prayer Bags" that a student will get to bring home each week. The "Prayer Bag" will include: a bear, a journal, booklet of prayers, bible puzzles, and a crucifix. We ask that each night you and your child pray with the bear and journal what you as a family would like to pray for. We also ask that you go over the prayers that are included in the prayer booklet as these are the prayers that your first grader should know well by the end of the year. It is very important that your child remembers to bring the "Prayer Bag" back the following week so every one gets a turn to bring it home.

If you have any questions you can reach me (Ally) at [REDACTED] and Maggie at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

God bless,

Ally Dion and Maggie Millness

First Grade Catechists

References

Fay, J. & Funk, D. (1995). *Teaching with Love & Logic: Taking control of the classroom*. Love & Logic Press Inc: Golden, CO.

Wong, H. K., Wong, R. T., Jondahl, S. F., & Ferguson, O. F. (2014). *The Classroom Management Book*. Mountain View: Harry K. Wong Publications, Inc.