

Classroom Discipline

Discipline is not control from the outside; it's order from within. Discipline is not about getting the learners to do what you want them to do. That's what dictators do, and you are not a dictator; you are an educator.

What is Classroom Discipline?

It is a systematic way of providing an environment in which positive teaching and positive learning can occur simultaneously.

Tips for Achieving and Maintaining Classroom Discipline

1. Interact with your students on a personal level every day. Greet them by name and welcome them into the classroom this sets a positive tone for a lesson or for the day.
2. Get students focused before you begin any lesson be sure you have their attention before you begin.
3. Use positive presence; move around the classroom continuously. Do not sit or remain stagnant while teaching. Make frequent eye contact with students. Monitor students with your physical presence.
4. Model the behaviour you want students to produce. If you exhibit respect, trust, enthusiasm, interest, and courtesy in classroom, students will likely display similar behaviour. Remember "Values are caught, not taught "
5. Use low profile intervention. When you see a student who is misbehaving, be sure your intervention is quiet, calm and inconspicuous.
6. Verbal reprimands should be private, brief, and as immediate as possible.
The more you reprimand privately, the less likely you will be challenged. The more immediate the reprimand, the less likely the student will feel you condone his behaviour.
7. Acknowledge positive student behaviour when it is not expected.
8. Acknowledge hard work, kindness, and dependability.
9. Have rules and enforce those rules.
10. Be consistent. Although, this is easier said than done, the key to an effective discipline policy in any classroom is consistency. Make this principle part of your classroom action plan.
11. Don't hand out lots of warnings without following through on consequences. Lots of warnings tell the students that you won't enforce a rule.
12. Be fair and impartial.

Other Likely Factors to Consider Before Enforcing Discipline:

- a) Age of the child
- b) Health condition of the child
- c) Nature/gravity of the offence
- d) The school rules and regulations.

Kindly note that Discipline or Punishments should not be Vindictive or Overrated but Corrective.