

Paige Koomler's

FIRST GRADE

Classroom Management Plan



Education 360

NOVEMBER 23, 2009

In my first grade classroom, classroom management will be the foundation for successful learning. Effective management will not be possible without an organized, well-written plan. In this document, I will lay out the many detailed aspects of my personal classroom management plan. I will explain my top ten theory-based beliefs which will have a great impact on how I provide discipline, both preventive and supportive as well as corrective. In addition, this document will provide my plans for six procedures that I will implement with my students as well as my discipline/consequences plan to handle misbehavior. Attached is a map of my classroom arrangement, as well as a parent letter that will inform my student's parents and guardians of the management plan that will be in effect in the classroom. Overall, this document is meant to organize the many aspects of my classroom management plan.

Philosophy of Classroom Management

As stated, this document will review details of my strategies, beliefs, and values that are fundamental to my interaction with the students in my classroom. First, I will examine my top ten beliefs regarding classroom management that will greatly influence my classroom. These are all based on research of several educational theorists, but I have examined them and will explain how I will implement them with my own first grade students. I believe that empowering students to make right decisions on their own is crucial at this young age. The theme of internal motivation will be evident throughout my management plan. I also believe that instruction should be teacher led/facilitated but carried out by the students.

My Top Ten Beliefs

I believe that a nurturing classroom community is essential to learning.

Alfie Kohn has several theories and ideas that I plan to implement in my early elementary classroom. I strongly agree with his theory of creating a close knit community within the walls of your

room: a place that makes all students feel welcome and excited to be there. I will work to make my room a community by including room decorations and design in a way that makes it more comfortable. Also, I will eliminate any disrespectful behavior and competitive attitudes from the class. I also believe that I will need to create a social interaction between my first grade students. My students will work together in many different circumstances to make them feel connected to both their classmates and to me, the teacher.

I agree with Fred Jones' Skill Cluster #1

I agree with Fred Jones' theory that classroom structure is important and can be set to discourage bad behavior. I will set up my room in Jones' idea for an interior loop, which provides correct spacing for me to walk and access each student quickly. Jones' skill cluster 1 also includes setting both general and specific classroom rules both of which I will use in my room. I also agree with Jones' theory that the opening moments of the day are often wasted, and bell work must be administered to avoid this. Jones' theory states that students need to have responsibility and this will be a big part of how I manage my classroom. He also promotes creating responsibility through classroom jobs. I will assign classroom tasks to my students weekly, and will use their performance of these to create their citizenship score for the week.

I will honor Glasser's 5 Prime Student Needs.

In Glasser's theory, students are the center of the classroom. He believes that students have a set of 5 Prime Needs that will affect how they successfully learn or misbehave in the classroom. I plan on implementing these needs in as many ways as possible in my classroom. These basic needs include survival, power, fun, belonging and freedom. I will use these needs in my classroom by allowing my students to have a say in activities and rules, while implementing engaging lessons that are both fun and interesting. I will also foster a sense of belonging by being attentive to all students fairly, as Glasser's

theory suggests. I will ensure that my students understand their role in the classroom is important in many ways.

I will use Glasser's 7 Connecting Habits of Teachers.

I believe that making sure your students are connected to the teacher, their classmates and their learning. I want to strive to create meaningful relationships with my students. William Glasser believes in 7 Connecting Habits that teachers have that can work to create positive interactions between teacher and students. These 7 relationship-based habits include caring, supporting, encouraging, befriending, listening, contributing and trusting. I will use all of these when interacting in my classroom, creating real relationships with students that will help them to connect with teachers and peers in the educational setting. I will work to keep these behaviors in mind throughout all my actions during the school day in order to be effective. I want my students to look up to me as a role model. I will have a meaningful relationship with each of my students, not as friends but as a mutual respect and appreciation.

I believe in Wong's system of consequences for misbehavior

I agree with Wong's idea of rule-based positive and negative consequences. Wong believes that students should receive positive reinforcing consequences for compliance, as well as negative penalties relating specifically to that misbehavior. For example, according to Wong, if a student breaks the rule in my classroom regarding following directions, that student should receive the consequence of practicing following them during free time. As also noted in my procedures, students will note the nature of the misbehavior immediately following, and this will be taken into effect as consequences are decided. In my first grade classroom, this will work well, encouraging my students to focus on following the rules we have set.

Michelle Borba: Four Step Approach to classroom discipline

I am a strong believer in students having the opportunity daily to make their own choices and then reflect on them. Part of my philosophy can be reflected in a theory by Michelle Barba, a former teacher and advocate of moral intelligence. Borba has an approach of four steps that use moral intelligence to deal with misbehavior. Students are to respond calmly, review what they did wrong, reflect and then make it right. In my discipline plan, reviewing and reflecting are an integral part of the procedure following misbehavior. I will also encourage that my students respond calmly in all situations in order to be respectful. Borba's theory lays out a simple strategy that I will lead with my students to work towards a decrease in misbehavior.

I will use Win-Win Discipline

The Win-Win Discipline Theory is a belief that everyone can win when it comes to discipline. One main aspect of this theory describes the importance of class rules, which I have implemented in the routines and procedures of my room. The theory says that class rules are a necessity. Class rules must be collaboratively formed by the students and teacher. Rules will be simple, and there will be less than 6. The theory requires rules be obviously displayed in the classroom. In my classroom, I will stress the importance of 5 basic rules displayed on a bright large poster at the front of the room. Just like the Win-Win theory I believe that class rules are important, and they will be fundamental in my classroom.

Albert's Theory of Belonging and Cooperation

Albert's Theory of Belonging and Cooperation states that we need to create relationships with our students that motivate them to achieve. One aspect in particular that I identify with is Albert's Four R's of consequences, all of which are meant to handle misbehaviors in a way that builds relationships. The four R's include ensuring that consequences are related, reasonable, respectful, and reliable.

Behaving with respect will be a main focus in my class, and consequences will follow this theme as well. With my set discipline plan, the consequences will also be reliable and consistent. I feel the four R's are important for lower elementary classrooms, because they ensure that discipline is behavior-based and not student based, and relationships are still withheld following misbehavior.

I will follow Borba's Seven Essential Virtues.

Michelle Borba emphasizes the importance of modeling for your students. She has a list of seven essential virtues that teachers can model for and expect from their students. I can identify most closely with the first virtue of empathy. Borba insists that modeling empathy will pass the virtue onto your students by creating a social environment, using stories, and keeping things positive. To allow students to interact, I will keep them in small groups for seating and activities. I will also model and encourage the use of stories to exhibit sensitivity in my students. This will make my classroom a loving, accepting environment in which my students will love to learn.

I agree with Marvin Marshall's set of rules for responsibility.

While I love the idea that I will be using of allowing my students to help me form the class rules list, Marvin Marshall has a great set of 5 basic rules that are ideas for possibilities. I expect many of these to become rules in my classroom.

HAVE MY MATERIALS

BE WHERE I BELONG

FOLLOW DIRECTIONS

DO MY ASSIGNMENTS

BE KIND TO OTHERS

Procedures and Routines:

Beginning of Day/Attendance:

In my classroom, the beginning of the day will be one of the most fun times for my students. As my students enter the room, they will follow set procedures, including morning work, unpacking materials and attendance. First, upon entering the room, students will go to their cubbies and unpack the contents of their backpacks, taking needed items to their seats. They will then choose their lunch counter, ordered at the front of the room alphabetically. I will have a cup labeled cold lunch and hot lunch and the students will place their counter in the appropriate cup. This will make attendance very simple and efficient also. In addition, each morning I will have two worksheets for each student: one that is primarily fun and one academic, directly related to a topic we've been studying. For example, one morning's work would be a fall scene coloring page with some basic handwriting practice. Secondly, students would have another sheet containing math or language practice of skills learned the day before.

Classroom Helpers:

I feel that a classroom helper system is an important part of classroom management and organization. Students need to have a sense of belonging and responsibility. To ensure that this happens in my room, I will have a system of classroom jobs in which half of my students have an assigned job at any given time. Jobs will only switch on Monday mornings, so students will have an entire week to perfect their task. These jobs will include line leader, light flipper, lunch counter, gardener, carpet cleaner, cubby organizer and more. Each morning I will take time to remind students of their jobs. On Friday, each job will be assessed and a grade given, which will figure into that student's citizenship score.

Dismissal:

I will also implement a plan to help students get ready to go home each day. Dismissal procedures in my room will be very important yet simple. On the first day of school, we will choose a

goodbye song together as a class. Five minutes before dismissal each day the classroom music helper will play this song, which will indicate it is time to get ready to go home. Students will then, in order by desk groups, retrieve their items from their cubbies and return to their desk to put their homework folder in their bags. They will then have a seat at their desk. When the song ends, this will indicate that it's time to line up in their assigned order to head out to the buses.

Turning in Student Work:

In my classroom, I will try to make turning in work very organized for my students. I will have 3 bins up at the front of the classroom. They will be labeled "language arts", "math" and "others". Students will be aware that work should be placed in the appropriate subject bin upon completion. In addition, each student will be assigned a homework folder that they will bring back each morning, containing their completed assignments. Each morning, I will collect homework from inside the folders and it will be the student's job to put their new homework assignments inside to take home. This is an efficient system to receive and distribute worksheets and homework.

Getting Student Attention:

The ability to bring my class together in a simple, non-distracting way is very important to classroom management. I have seen several attention-getting techniques used by elementary teachers. Many of them have seemed slightly over the top. In my first grade classroom, I will use a basic clapping pattern technique. In order to keep it interesting, I will use a different clapping pattern each time the class gets too noisy and I need to get their attention. They will be expected to begin listening and repeat the pattern back to me as a class. This procedure requires active listening in order to repeat the pattern correctly, which results in attentiveness following the clap.

Community Circle:

With lower elementary, I feel that community circle time will be an important part of class that can develop and improve crucial skills of speaking, listening, critical thinking, adding details and questioning. This time will involve students sitting in the carpet area forming a circle. Every student will have a chance to speak, sharing anything on their mind at the time. I will also have a small basket of cards listing topics they can discuss if they can't think of anything. Active listening by all students will be expected, and questioning will be encouraged. An unsure student can be skipped, but they will need to have a turn at some point before the circle time ends. I will take part as well, to model a correct response for my students.

Implementation of Classroom Management Practices:

An organized plan needs to be carried out in order to achieve a managed classroom. I will implement a detailed set of rules along with a discipline and rewards plan to prevent and correct misbehaviors with my students as well as to reflect my beliefs. To go along with my belief that students should be empowered to learn and behave by making the right decisions daily, my students will help me create a list of four classroom rules, which I will post on a bright colorful poster in an obvious place in the classroom. Everyone will be expected to follow these rules, as well as to always be respectful at school. Classroom procedures will be important and posted in the room as well, and they will be created by me to ensure a smooth-running educational atmosphere.

I believe that rules and procedures need to be accompanied by a discipline plan which is meant to prevent misbehavior before it even occurs. My discipline plan will be very similar to the one I experienced myself in first grade. This system will be based around a set of cards colored green, yellow, red, and black. Every student will start the week on green. A violation of the rules or a disrespectful action will result in the corrective action of flipping a card, ordering from green to yellow to red and ending on black after three misbehaviors in the week. After flipping the card, the student will need to

write on a scrap piece of paper what they did wrong. On Fridays at a class meeting, we will reflect on what went well and what we can improve on. Also, at this meeting, students on green or yellow will receive a small reward, in the form of a snack, a no homework pass, and other various rewards. Students on red will have a note written home discussing the issue. Students on black will also get a note written home, as well as miss Monday and Tuesday recess.

I plan to support my discipline plan by teaching curriculum that is engaging and interest-based. While I know that standards are important, in first grade fostering a love of school should be first priority. Which means it is sometimes necessary to incorporate children interests into my curriculum and lesson planning. I will do this simply observing my students interest in a lesson and adapt it accordingly for next time. Also, I feel a great way to promote a love of school in these young children is simply by being enthusiastic, loving, and having a good attitude. Another way I will foster a love of school is by making learning fun and engaging for my first graders. I will introduce hands-on and interpersonal learning early in the year. Making learning engaging and fun and creating a fun room atmosphere is how I will practice preventative discipline.

DEAR PARENTS OF MISS KOOMLER'S FIRST GRADERS,

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL FOR A GREAT YEAR OF LEARNING. WE HAVE GRADUATED KINDERGARTEN AND ARE READY TO THRIVE AS BIG BAD FIRST GRADERS! 😊 I HOPE YOU ALL HAD A FUN AND RELAXING SUMMER. I WOULD LIKE TO INFORM YOU OF SOME IMPORTANT PROCEDURES THAT YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS WILL BE FOLLOWING IN ORDER TO MAKE THIS YEAR A SUCCESSFUL ONE!

***FOLLOWING THE RULES!**

YOUR STUDENTS HAVE WORKED TOGETHER TO CREATE A LIST OF 4 CLASSROOM RULES THAT EVERYONE IN THE CLASSROOM WILL FOLLOW!

- 1. RAISE YOUR HAND TO SPEAK!**
- 2. TREAT OTHERS THE WAY YOU'D LIKE TO BE TREATED.**
- 3. FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS GIVEN BY THE TEACHER**
- 4. COMPLETE YOUR WORK!**

THESE WILL BE THE MOST IMPORTANT BEHAVIORS TO FOLLOW THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!

***WHAT IF I DON'T?**

WHEN THE RULES ARE BROKEN, WE WILL BE USING A CARD-COLOR SYSTEM. EACH STUDENT HAS A SET OF 4 CARDS, COLORED GREEN, YELLOW, RED AND BLACK. MISBEHAVIOR RESULTS IN FLIPPING

THEIR CARD. GREEN AND YELLOW ARE IDEAL AND STUDENTS SHOULD STRIVE TO KEEP THEIR CARD AWAY FROM RED AND BLACK. AT THE END OF THE WEEK EACH CARD SET WILL BE RESTORED TO FRESH GREEN!

***Day-to-Day!**

WE WILL HAVE DAILY PROCEDURES IN OUR CLASSROOM TO KEEP EVERYTHING RUNNING SMOOTHLY. EACH STUDENT WILL HAVE A HOMEWORK FOLDER THAT THEY WILL DECORATE ON THEIR OWN WITH THEIR FAVORITE THINGS. THIS FOLDER WILL CONTAIN VERY IMPORTANT HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS AND PAPERS FOR YOU, THE PARENTS! MAKE SURE TO CHECK THIS FOLDER EVERY SINGLE NIGHT!

***End of Week Meeting**

YOUR CHILDREN WILL LOOK FORWARD TO THE MEETING THAT WE WILL HAVE EACH FRIDAY AT THE END OF THE DAY. AT THIS TIME, I WILL ANALYZE EACH CHILD'S CARD, AND ACCORDING TO THE COLOR, THEY WILL RECEIVE A REWARD. GREEN AND YELLOW CARD'S OWNERS WILL RECEIVE A REWARD, IN VARIOUS FORMS EACH WEEK. RED AND BLACK CARDS WILL NOT RECEIVE A REWARD, AND BLACK CARDS WILL ACCOMPANY A NOTE HOME DESCRIBING THE MISBEHAVIOR.

***CLASSROOM HELPERS!**

EACH WEEK, TEN CLASSROOM JOBS WILL BE ASSIGNED. SO, APPROXIMATELY HALF OF THE CLASS WILL HAVE A CLASSROOM JOB EACH WEEK. ASK YOUR STUDENT TO SHARE THEIR TASK WITH YOU, AND POSSIBLY PRACTICE THE JOB AT HOME! THIS SYSTEM HELPS TO ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBILITY AND CONNECTION IN THE CLASSROOM.

***Grading!**

While learning is the most crucial, grading will also be involved, as I will use many hands-on, observation type assessments, as well things like spelling tests and math sheets to test knowledge. Citizenship will also be graded based on classroom job completion and color-card status.

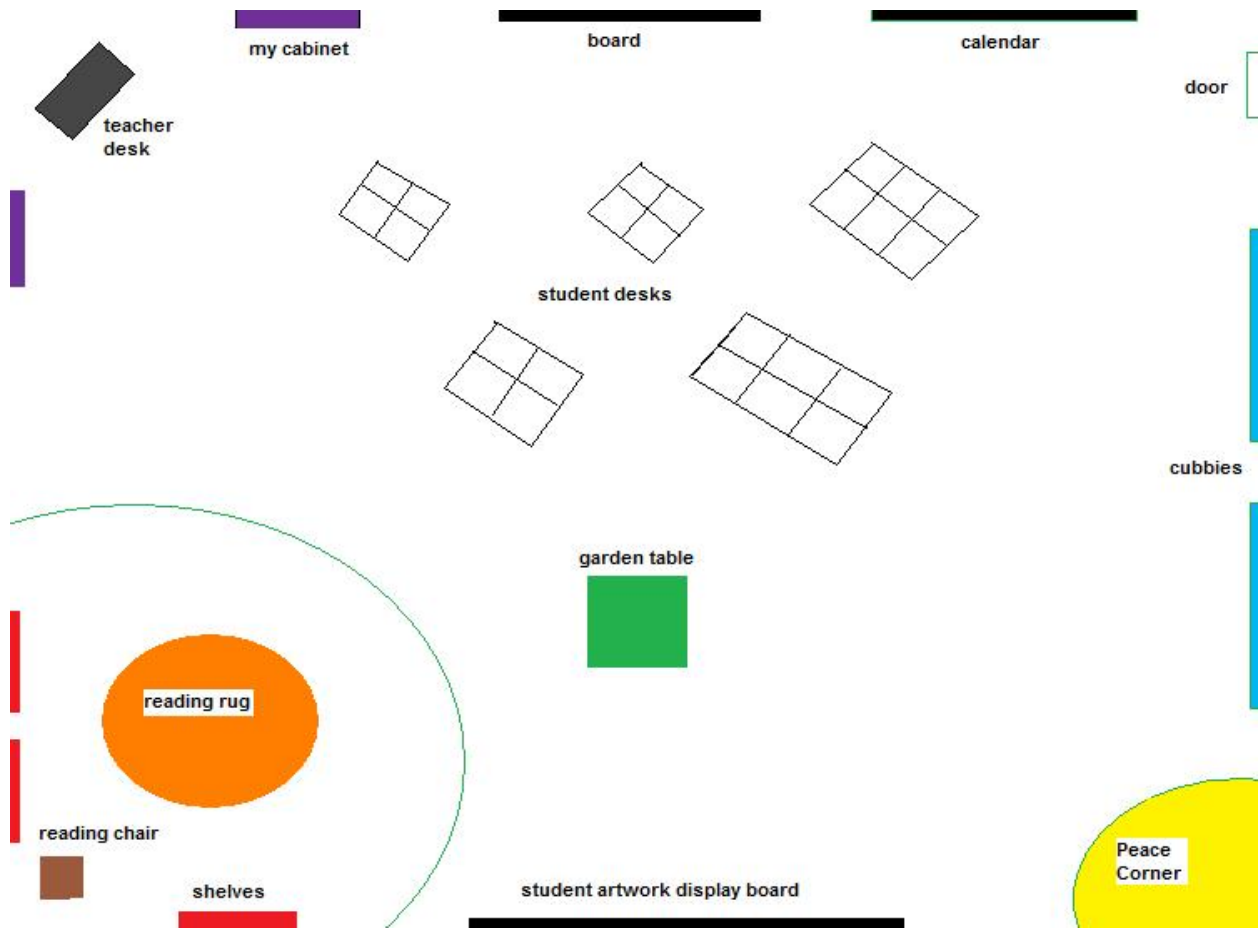
***Expectations**

The most important part of being a first grader is having fun learning! In order for this to happen, students will be respectful and responsible! I will always be available for help if ever needed! I would love to talk to you and your student! Remember you are very important to the success of your young learner! Be involved! 😊

Thank you so much,

Miss Paige Koomler

My Classroom Arrangement:



Works Cited:

Classroom Rules: Elementary Level. Mary Knoll. 2007. The Web Portal for Educators.
November 14, 2009. <http://www.teach-nology.com/worksheets/misc/back/rules/elem>