

Autumn McKinney

October 14, 2005

Discipline Plan for 2nd Graders



Students should be explorers and investigators in the classroom. Children learn best from experiences and hands on activities and they also remember many more things that way too. I do not think that school should be all play, but to keep children interested in learning, the classroom needs to be fun and inviting. By using hands- on activities students will be involved and excited that they aren't doing boring work and they will want to do more.

Misbehaviors are actions that happen in class that prevents students from learning. Misbehavior will happen in classrooms and that is why every teacher should have a few basic rules and the build on those for more specific rules. Children are children and I want them to be who they are in my classroom as long as they learn and allow others to learn.

I will have some basic rules for my 2nd graders to follow such as,

- no put downs
- take responsibility for yourself
- respect others
- don't damage property
- treat others the way you want to be treated

These are good rules to have because they allow learning to happen, create a learning environment, and they are important to my personal beliefs. I want my students to feel safe and comfortable in my classroom and with these basic rules that can happen. My students will take responsibility for their actions, respect others, and treat them, as they would want to be treated. I will not tolerate name-calling, bullying, or any other actions that make a student feel uneasy.

On the first day of school these rules will be explained and enforced. We will also as a class come up with a list of at least 10 rules that everyone will follow. Along with the rules we will establish, we will also brainstorm some consequences and make decisions on when they should be used. I believe it is important for the teacher and students to agree on rules and consequences. As Charles notes in Building Classroom Discipline, “Class agreements specify the kinds of behavior that permits students to learn more easily and enjoyably. They allow you to teacher more effectively and help students become more self-directing, responsible, and concerned about the well being of others” (223).

Another important activity we will do on the first day will be welcome bags. Children should be welcomed into classrooms and they should feel comfortable. Welcome bags will allow students to drop their guard and see that my classroom is safe, fun, and comfortable for them. In each welcome bag there should be;

- a cotton ball to remind them that the room is full of kind words
- a chocolate kiss to comfort you when sad
- a tissue to remind you to help dry someone’s tears
- a sticker to remind everyone to stick together as a team
- a star to remind you to shine and do your best
- a gold thread to remind you of friendships
- a rubber band to remind you to hug someone
- a penny to remind you that you are a valuable person
- a toothpick to remind you to “pick out” good qualities of others
- a bandage to remind you to heal hurt feelings

- an eraser to remind you that everyone makes mistakes and it is O.K

In my classroom, I will have a color chart. Each student's name will be written on the left side and they will have a pocket with four different colored cards in it. If a student misbehaves or doesn't follow the rules of our classroom, they will have to turn a card. Each color will mean some type of discipline. Green cards mean good, yellow means warning and 10 minutes off of recess, orange means they miss recess, red means they call home and parents are notified of problem and a consequence is agreed upon between teacher and parents.

Along with using the color chart, I will also have consequences for the basic rules that I will hold in my classroom. If a child makes a choice of ruining someone else's property such as a jacket, he or she will have to write a letter to their parents along with a letter to the other child's parents explaining why he or she ruined the jacket. If the problem continues then I will hold a parent conference with the child's parent to come up with a plan of action. If the parents decide not to join me in the decision making process, I will go to my principal for help and suggestions. For consequences for put downs or disrespect children will apologize to whom they hurt and get a warning. If the problem continues then other decisions will be made like in the example given earlier and cards will be turned.

Positive discipline will also be a big part of my class. When a child follows rules or goes above and beyond in helping others or themselves they will get compliment stickers to add to their compliment cards. For each compliment they receive they add a sticker to their card. When they get their card full (20), they will have a choice of eating in the classroom with me or eat outside with me allowing a friend to join us. As a whole

class every time I receive a compliment about the class, I will add a smiley face to our compliment chart and when we get 25 we will have some sort of party of the student's choice. Positive attitudes and actions should always be pointed out to students so they can realize they are doing great and are not always being in trouble.

There are several theorists who have thoughts on discipline plans and classroom management. I however, believe many points studied by many of the theorist. For example, Fred Jones states that proximity control is a positive way in managing. I agree with him and will use that in my classroom. If a certain child has trouble focusing, I will walk around her more often than the other children. I will let them know I am here and I hope they do their work. Walking up to the student who is being disruptive or looking at them with a disapproving look will get the point across to them that they need to change what they are doing. Using proximity control also allows the idea of embarrassment to not play apart in the classroom. By not embarrassing the students will allow them to maintain respect as well as allowing learning to continue.

Another theorist I will incorporate in my classroom will be Barbra Colorosso. She stresses that teachers must integrate three actions into the class. These three actions include treating students with respect, giving students a sense of positive power, and allowing them to make decisions while taking responsibility and learning from their successes or mistakes (Charles 156). One of my basic rules is respect because respect allows learning. Allowing student to make their own rules and consequences allows them to make decisions. If they know the rules and consequences, but still choose disobey them then that was there choice and they have to suffer the consequences.

My classroom set up will be very open and diverse. I want the children to feel safe and comfortable and by allowing that to happen, I must implement rules and create a fun and safe environment. In addition to discussing rules and consequences on the first day, I will also explain my idea for classroom management. It is important for students to understand what I expect of them and to start that at the beginning by setting a routine. Setting routines in the beginning allows the rest of the year to run smoothly and it will eliminate a lot of misbehaviors.

One management plan I will use is using sticks. Sticks can be used for many things. For example, taking attendance or making groups. Whenever I need to pick a volunteer, I can pick a stick or if I need help with something I will pick a stick. Alphabetical lists will help, but to make it fun children will decorate their sticks and I will use them in numerous ways.

Another idea for management will be using homework bins and mail boxes. I will have these bins right by the door so students will be reminded that they need to turn their homework in before it is late. It will also allow me to keep homework assignments organized. I will also have mailboxes for each student. The mail boxes will save time because if I have notes or announcements that have to go home, I can put them into the mailboxes. It also teaches students responsibility.

I will always have a place on the chalkboard where the daily schedule will be posted along with the date. I think it is important to allow students to see what we will be doing and then they know what to expect for the day. It also will help the classroom to stay on track of time and activities. Students will also start each morning with morning

work. Morning work will vary in subject and activity. It is not busy work, but to be a learning activity.

One way to prevent misbehavior while doing an activity is using the Idea box. I am very interested in children being able to express themselves and using the idea box will allow them to express their opinion through writing on various topics. The idea box will be set up by the writing center and when the students have a writing idea, they will put it on paper and enter it into the box. When we have expressive writing students can use the idea box for prompts, but they can also use their own ideas. The idea box will be varied from real things to crazy and imaginary ideas. The box allows students to write about something during the allowed time even if they can not think of something.

Another way to prevent misbehavior is to have time fillers. Time fillers can be anything from singing or coloring, to sharing stories. I believe to prevent misbehavior teachers must over prepare things to do in class. Lesson plans need to be made in advance and time fillers should always be at hand. If students are bored or they don't have anything to do, misbehaviors can occur. Keep the students busy allowing them to have fun will minimize bad experiences.

A discipline plan will only be effective if it is flexible as well as set as a routine. It not only should be an agreement between students and teacher, but with parents, colleagues, and administration. Parents will receive a letter the first day of school explaining the basic rules I have for our class and an explanation of the color chart. When the students and I make our classroom rules and consequence list, I will then update the parents by sending another letter home. I will be open with communicating with parents

because I believe that for a successful year, parents must be involved and understand what their children are doing in school.

Dear Parent or Guardian,

October 14, 2005

I am so happy you and your child/children will be apart of my class this school year! I have many exciting activities to do with your child/children. Before we start off with the new school year, I would like to share with all of you what my basic rules of my classroom, which are;

- be respectful
- no put downs
- no damaging of property
- treat others the way you want to be treated

These rules will be enforced in my classroom so that I can create a warm and welcoming environment. I want you and your child/children to want to be apart of my classroom.

With these rules we can make the classroom a great place.

One the first day of school your child/children will help me make a list of rules and consequences of our classroom and I will send you an update on the other rules we add. We will set rules, consequences, and routines the first few weeks so that we can have a fun and a great learning year.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call me at 260-999-5675 or email me at ARMckinney@mancehster.edu. I am glad you are part of my classroom and can't wait to work with you. Each week I will send a report home telling what we will be doing for the next week and homework you can be expecting to come home. Again any questions or concerns please contact me.

Thank you,

Miss Autumn McKinney