






When I think of my classroom, I think of it being filled with first-graders. I know in first grade the children are still dependent on the adult and it is very important to have the rules, expectations, and consequences displayed. Rules and expectations need to be modeled in my classroom so I can have control over the behaviors and/or misbehaviors in my classroom.

Rules and expectations are very important in any classroom. According to Lee and Marlene Canter rules should be observable. “Rules state exactly how students are to behave. They should indicate observable behaviors.” (Charles 43). It is important to have clear rules and expectations, because the students need to be able to understand these rules/expectations their teacher has posted in the classroom.

My rules/expectations will be the following:

-  Listen actively
-  Use inside voices
-  Have a positive attitude
-  Keep your hands to yourself
-  Turn in homework on time

*Listen actively.* The students need to make sure they are listening to what I have to say and what others have to say. By listening actively they are respecting the opinions of others. I believe it is important for the students to begin active listening at a young age, because this skill will be used throughout their life.

*Use inside voices.* I do not want to disrupt other classrooms, so my students need to practice using their inside voices. They do not have to talk loudly to be heard. This is

usually a main rule throughout their school years, so the children can start practicing it right away.

*Have a positive attitude.* The children and I need to come into the classroom with positive attitudes. The attitude I have will affect the students and vice versa. We set the mood for the day right when we walk into the classroom. School may be the only positive environment in a child's life, so school should always be "happy" and "fun" in the students' eyes.

*Keep your hands to yourself.* It is important for each student to respect others and their belongings. I hope my students know to treat others how they would want to be treated.

*Turn in homework on time.* Students need to practice turning in all homework on time, even if it is practice work. This will help them keep up academically and practice good skills to possess in the future.

We will spend time practicing these rules in my classroom. First graders need to gradually let go of the adult's hand and start being independent. It is very important to practice these rules as much as we can so the students feel comfortable practicing these rules on their own.

I will need to teach and model my own rules and expectations in my classroom. Students need to be taught the discipline plan and they need to understand why it is important to have rules and expectations in the classroom. The Canters believe, "It is not enough for teachers simply to set limits and apply corrective actions. They must help students understand and practice behavior that leads to success in school" (Charles 39). It is very important for me to model my own rules in my classroom and for me to practice these rules with the students on a regular basis.

I will have a set of procedures practiced throughout my classroom on a daily basis. My students are to come into the classroom and put their backpacks up, put their names either by “packed lunch” or “school lunch,” and get their supplies ready for the school day. If they have a special area class right away they will get their materials for that class. After the students have completed their tasks they need to sit at their desks and complete the morning work or make corrections to previous homework pages. I know they will need practice with this in order to get used to the routine. I will make sure we practice for a couple of weeks so the students know the routine like the back of their hand.

To enforce my rules and procedures of my classroom I will make sure I monitor my classroom. I do not expect to sit at my desk while the students are working on their homework. I know I will be up and moving around helping students and keeping students on task. “An effective teacher will make a pass through the whole room about two minutes after the students started a written assignment” (McDaniel). I will let my students know that I am available for any of their questions and concerns. I think by moving around the classroom it will prevent misbehaviors from happening.

If I see a student misbehaving I will make sure I give them “cues” that he/she need to stop. One of the most important is “the look.” It is very important for every teacher to have “the look,” because it can be very effective in the classroom. The Canters agree, “Make eye contact and use an expression that shows awareness and disapproval” (Charles 45). If the student keeps misbehaving I will move closer to him/her. “Move beside the student. Usually there is no need to do more” (Charles 45). I will carry out

these “cues” before giving them any consequences. It is important to let the students know with my body language that they are misbehaving.

Unfortunately, students who do not follow the rules and expectations will have consequences. I agree with the Canters and their “discipline hierarchy” (Charles 43). It is important to know that each time the student misbehaves their consequence will be worse than the previous one. My consequences are as followed:

- 📖 First time: Verbal warning
- 📖 Second Time: Move stick up- Lose 5 minutes of recess time.
- 📖 Third Time: Move stick up- Lose the whole recess.
- 📖 Fourth Time: Phone call to parents
- 📖 Fifth Time: Conference with the principal, parents, and myself
- 📖 Severe Clause- Sent to principal ASAP

My students will also be rewarded for the positive behavior they display in my class. I will reward my students with tangible objects. If my students are good for one week then I might bring in some kind of treat at the end of the week. If a student is good for the day I will give them a sticker or a piece of candy. I think it is important to let the students know their good behaviors will be rewarded, and they are modeling for the other students. I will also praise my students on behaving so well. I want to encourage them to keep up the great behavior!

I think it is important for the parents, school counselors, and administrators to have a copy of my discipline plan. I will make my discipline plan in the form of a book and give the book to them. This book will include my rules/consequences for the year, how I handle absences/tardies, and any other important information the parents and






guardians need to know. It is a different way to approach the discipline plan, as well as other materials. This way they will get all of the papers in one book, instead of handing out multiple papers throughout the school year.

I know my discipline plan will need to be revised throughout the first few years of my teaching career. This discipline plan is probably one of the hardest things I will have to write and then enforce in my classroom. It is important for me to have control over my classroom, but I want to be able to do it in a way that students will still have fun learning.







Dear Parents and Guardians,

My name is Miss Hudson and I am thrilled to be teaching your child! I am very excited to start off a great school year. I have a lot of fun activities planned for the year.

My main reason for writing this letter is to inform you of the rules and expectations in my classroom. I believe we need to practice these rules for them to be effective for the children. I expect the children to do the following:

-  Listen actively
-  Use inside voices
-  Have a positive attitude
-  Keep your hands to yourself
-  Turn in all homework on time

If the students do not follow these rules the following consequences are taken.

-  #1-Receive a verbal warning.
-  #2-Stick is moved; lose 5 minutes of recess time.
-  #3-Stick is moved up, lose of 1 recess.
-  #4-Phone call to parents.
-  #5-Conference with principal, parents, and myself.
-  #Severe Clause-Conference will be held with teacher, parents, and principal.

I would appreciate it if you and your child could sign the bottom of this paper, so I know you both have read and agree to the rules and consequences of my classroom. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at [ECHudson@Manchester.edu](mailto:ECHudson@Manchester.edu) or call me at 574-453-1094. I am looking forward to teaching your child and I know it will be a successful year!

Thank you,

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Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Works Cited:**

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Boston: Pearson, 2003.

McDaniel, Thomas R. "A Primer on Classroom Discipline: Principles Old and New."

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