

Classroom Behavior Management Plan

Kristi Staton
EDUC 351
Classroom Management/Conflict Resolution
November 17, 2011

Classroom Behavioral Management Plan

Purpose

This document is intended to show and inform others of my beliefs and expectations that I will have for my classroom. Behavior management plans are essential in order to maintain a safe learning environment. I believe that plans such as this will help deal with misbehavior in the classroom and help show others my philosophy when dealing with classroom discipline. This document is written to show others the procedures and routines that I plan to follow in my classroom. The document also explains how I will implement my classroom management practices and includes a letter that would be sent home to parents summarizing the rules and expectations for my classroom.

Philosophy of Classroom Management

My philosophy for classroom management comes from portions of several different theorists and their philosophies. These theorists and I share common beliefs, values, and strategies for maintaining an effective and safe environment for students to learn. Many of the theorists believed in a student based learning environment. I also believe that students are the center of the educational world and teachers are placed to show guidance. The theorists and I also both believe that students learn behavior and that student choice is very important. Procedures and rule making are also a large part of our common beliefs. Fred Jones explained the importance of classroom rules, jobs, and earned activity time. Harry and Rosemary Wong discussed the importance of organization, procedures, and morning work. William Glasser believed that students are responsible for their own behaviors and using social environments such as groups to encourage student learning. Spencer Kagan, Jacob Kounin, VanWie, Curwin

and Medler, are theorists who also support my philosophy. The following are my “Top Ten Beliefs and Practices” for maintaining a successful classroom.

Classroom Jobs

Fred Jones believed in creating classroom jobs for all students. These jobs are essentially chores that the students need to complete throughout the day. Not only will this idea help students with other ideas that I believe in such as a sense of belonging but the chores will help our class run smoothly. Although I can use this idea with lower and upper elementary aged students I think that this idea will be most beneficial in the lower elementary aged classrooms. Children always strive for teacher approval and love the responsibility. Jobs make the students feel important and give the students a sense of accomplishment. This concept will also help the students develop a sense of responsibility. Some jobs that can be used in the classroom include: paper passer, line leader, office helper, chair stacker, calendar leader, group leader, recorder and messenger. When dealing with upper elementary you can add more jobs that include more responsibility such as a peer mediator or teacher’s assistant.

Preferred Activity Time

I strongly believe in rewarding students for good behavior. Incentives are all around us and believe that especially in the classroom, positive incentives are a great help to you as a teacher in managing your classroom. I do not consider these incentives to be bribes but rather helpful tools that help teach positive behaviors. Fred Jones believed in Preferred Activity Time, also known as PAT. This time is time that students earn due to good behavior. The time can be added up throughout the day for speedy clean-up, lining up quickly, correctly, and quietly, and just going above and beyond the classroom

expectations. The class's time builds up and at the end of the week, day, or month they are allowed an assortment of learning activities and games.

Students are Responsible for Their Own Behavior

William Glasser believed that students are responsible for their own behavior, and I must admit that although I think it is the teacher's job to model good behavior I also believe that students can and will control their own behavior. Glasser, Curwin and Mendler all agreed that teachers need to try to befriend their students and provide encouragement and stimulation. They must also show willingness to help. Children misbehave because it gives them the power and attention they are craving. Although Glasser believed in the five basic needs of students, both theorists believed that students need power and a sense of belonging. When teachers are able to meet these needs students will no longer feel the need to regain power and misbehave.

Writing Classroom Rules

Spencer Kagan's philosophy includes his idea that students need to be included in the rule making process. These rules need to be created at the beginning of the school year and should be based on an agreement of what is expected by both the teacher and the students. Making this a group process allows students to feel included and part of a whole community. The group decision making process also allows students to understand what exactly is expected of them throughout the year while in class and outside class. Although some rules need to be established and guided by the teacher, I believe that it is important for students to show a rule in the decision making. Classroom rules should be simple and easy for students to understand and should be limited to a low number. An example of a classroom rule could be, raise your hand to talk. This rule is

should wait patiently until called on by the teacher. The rules need to be placed on a poster or visible spot in the classroom so students can refer to them throughout the day/year.

Procedures

Harry and Rosemary Wong believed that implementing routines and procedures on the first day are essential when creating a successful management plan. I have seen procedures implemented on the first days of school and throughout the first few weeks and have seen the benefits that the extra time has created. Spending extra time not only helps students understand what is supposed to be done but also helps students practice the correct behavior during each different procedure. I believe that a lot of misbehavior comes from students not fully understanding expectations and with the repetition and time that is spent on teaching procedures students will be able to understand fully what is expected which will impact the amount of misbehavior that will occur. Although people may disagree and say the time that we use to teach procedures cut into the amount of learning time, I believe that the time that is spent teaching procedures at the beginning of the year will be much less time than the time that will be spent managing the classroom and restating all the procedures throughout the school year.

Morning Work/Avoiding Massive Time Wasting

Both Rosemary and Harry Wong and Fred Jones are similar when pertaining to morning work and wasted time. Jones believed that misbehavior is directly related to the amount of time that is wasted. All the theorists listed above believed in planning for every minute and allowing no time for students to waste. Morning work was introduced by Rosemary and Harry Wong and Fred Jones agreed that work such as journaling should

be used when students first arrive. Morning work allows students to start preparing their brains for the first lesson of the day. Also when time is not wasted and students are busy working there leaves time for little to no misbehavior.

Withitness

When I look back at the years I spent in school I always wondered how teachers could see what I was doing with their backs turned to me. As a teacher myself I highly believe in demonstrating the skill of withitness in my classroom. Jacob Kounin defined this term as the ability to be aware of what every student inside the classroom is doing. This idea requires teachers to have eyes in the back of their heads and be able to identify situations before they actually occur. This concept allows teachers to prevent the misbehavior before it actually happens.

Groups

William Glasser also believed in using groups to utilize student growth and again meet the five basic needs. When working in groups, students are allowed to hold different responsibilities and learn cooperation skills. I also believe in using groups because groups allow students to learn in a different way. Students often are able to feed off one another and discuss openly problems in solutions. With groups there are some drawbacks, however, when picking groups, the groups will be chosen carefully and changed often. Using groups helped me as a child and I believe that Glasser was correct when he said that students learn when placed in a social environment. When using groups I will be able to incorporate other ideas that were previously stated such as jobs, organization, and responsibility.

Plan and organize

Harry and Rosemary Wong believed that teachers need to be prepared and organized. I have realized over my time spent at Manchester College that organization is key to running a smooth classroom. Not only are you more prepared as a teacher but students tend to work better in a structured setting. Curwin and Mendler believe that children act out because they can and when students are placed in an organized setting they are no longer given the chance to act out. Although organization may take a long time to achieve the benefits outnumber any other disadvantage. I also will use organization to show students good work habits. I expect my students to be organized, and if I am not organized myself my students will have no one to model.

Technology

Technology is all around us, and I am certain that I will incorporate a technology enriched environment. VanWie believed that students need to be placed in this type of environment. Using technology for every aspect of the classroom is not something I agree on, however, I will incorporate technology into my lesson planning. Since there are many distractions when using computers, I will use the withitness I will gain to pick out students who are not using the technology for learning purposes. I will be sure to establish to my students that using technology such as computers are a privilege and will be taken away if misbehavior occurs. I agree with VanWie when she states that spaces that use digital technology engage students in critical thinking and creativity and this is why technology will be a large part of student's everyday learning experience.

Conclusion

My top ten beliefs stated above are formed from various theorists and will be visible throughout my classroom. These beliefs form my philosophy I have developed over the years as

an educator. I stay true to my beliefs as of now, however, have an open heart and mind and as I begin to grow as a teacher I will continue to evolve my thoughts and ideas.

Procedures and Routines

The following procedures and routines directly relate to my beliefs and philosophy. These procedures and routines are designed for classrooms ranging from kindergarten to fourth grade. I believe that rules make or break teachers and the success of their classroom. These procedures and routines will help students understand expectations and ideally minimize classroom misbehavior. The six procedures and routines listed below are the ones that I feel are important when establishing a successful classroom.

Emergency drills

Appropriate emergency drill procedures need to be established in order to have a safe and smooth transition to the designated locations. When the alarm sounds, the students will quickly and quietly line up at the door. I will use a class list to ensure that all students are safe and present. For a fire the class will follow the appropriate school procedure in going to the appropriate destination and face the building standing still and quietly. For tornados and severe weather, the students will demonstrate the proper position in the designated room. Students will remain quiet so they can listen for any instructions that are to be bad. I will post the procedures throughout the classroom and review them throughout the year. The drills will be practice when the school sounds the alarms and during the first weeks of school to ensure the students understanding of what is to be done.

Classroom Jobs

I will assign students jobs at the beginning of the week which will be rotated weekly. The jobs will be placed to help students' sense of belonging and responsibility. I will create jobs save me time in the day that I can use for more teaching. If needed, I will modify jobs to meet all my student's needs. Each student will have a job and students will have a turn at each job at least once throughout the year. Each job will have one or two students depending on size of class and size of job. The bulletin board by the calendar area will have the jobs listed and students will be asked to not touch or mess with the board. Jobs will include board eraser, paper passers, line leader, office helper, door holder, mail carriers, attendance helper, calendar helper, and any other job I find fit in the classroom.

Hallway Procedures

Hallway procedures are important for students to understand and follow so they don't waste time or disrupt other classes. Students will be using the hallway multiple times each day to go to specials, lunch, recess, and use the bathroom. It is important for students to learn how to respect others and stand quietly and move quickly through the hallways. Based on my beliefs I will have students practice correct hallway procedures multiple times throughout the first few weeks of schools and use incentives to help keep the procedures successfully. Students will have hands to their side, mouths closed, and eyes facing forward. Students will walk quietly on their feet and stay an arm's length away from the student in front of them. The students will also stay in a straight line and to the right so those that need to pass can do so efficiently.

Borrowing Supplies

When it comes to the classroom, I will have supplies for students to use if they are unable to afford or find what is needed to complete an assignment. I have learned over the past from several teachers that often supplies are not returned. I will have a generous amount of supplies for students to choose from and use however, will charge the student a rental fee. The rental fee will be a shoe. Students therefore cannot borrow more than 2 items at a time and will have an incentive to return the object they have borrowed. Some supplies that will be available for students to use for the rental fee will include pencils, pens, scissors, markers, crayons, glue, and erasers. Students will develop a stronger sense of responsibility and respect, and I will have all my supplies returned to me at the end of the day so future students can also use them.

Getting Attention/Signaling for quiet

Teachers need to be able to quickly get their students attention. By using the same signal each time, the students will immediately know what is happening. In my classroom, I will use a chime. This chime should not go off more than two times in a row. When students hear the chime they are to sit down wherever they are and place their hands on their head. Not only will students be able to hear the chime, but they will realize from the peers that it is time to stop what they are doing and listen to what I have to say. Students will practice this procedure multiple times throughout the beginning of the school year and will learn that if students are not all seated by the time the second chime rings their Preferred Activity Time (PAT) will be taken away.

Time Limits

At the beginning of the year time limits will be established to reinforce one of my top ten beliefs that were previously stated. Students will be given PAT when they are

able to complete tasks at an efficient pace. After learning the class's needs, I will establish time limits for students to follow while doing everyday class activities. These times will depend on students' needs, age, and difficulty. Time limits will be placed on bathroom breaks, drink breaks, cleanup time, arrival, dismissal and any other activity that can be adapted to the time limits. My goal here is not to trick students or hurry students along, but to teach students efficient strategies to use to get their work done on time. They are then rewarded with the PAT at the end of the week or month to participate in fun learning games.

Implementation of Classroom Management Practices

Classroom Rules and Expectations

Classroom rules and expectations are an essential part of keeping a classroom organized and efficient. I believe that students should help create the rules that they are to follow in the classroom each day. Although I will guide the students into developing appropriate rules and add rules of my own, I think that it is important for students to suggest what they believe should be expected of them. This rule making process will be completely student based and students will brainstorm on the first day of rules that they believe should be part of our classroom.

I will introduce the first three rules which include be safe, respect yourself and others, and maintain responsibility. I will stress responsibility and respect in my classroom throughout the weeks and believe that introducing two main parts of my classroom on the first day will help lead students to the understanding of what I expect out of the students. We will discuss rules that they believe are important and write them down on a poster board. At the end we will pick two more rules to add to the first three. Since many rules might be repeated, students as well as

myself, will come up with the two final rules that will be added to our classroom rules and expectations.

To ensure that the rules are enforced, I will watch for problems that arise and encourage the students to be responsible for themselves and their actions. When teaching responsibility I hope that each student will be able to become responsible for their own actions and learn to focus on tasks. Using PAT as an incentive to follow the rules, I will also use words of encouragement to give each student a sense of accomplishment.

Classroom Management Style

Preventive

An assortment of techniques and strategies will be used in my classroom to prevent misbehavior of students from occurring. On a regular basis I will have students practice procedures so they know what is expected of them. I will also use the group work to place students in a social environment so that they are meeting the 5 basic needs. Creating classroom jobs and morning work will also be used to prevent misbehavior. Students will be given less free time to do as they please and be given more responsibility. Students should not have to question what is the right behavior or wrong behavior after practicing all the procedures that have been listed above.

Supportive

When a student becomes off task I as a teacher will show support to the student. I will ask the student about our class expectations and lead the student into make the correct choice. Since responsibility will be a word that is often used in my classroom I will be sure to use words of encouragement and praise for rules that the student did follow which will hopefully lead the student into making the appropriate choice of the misbehavior.

Corrective

I view corrections as a way to fix a problem. Corrective discipline will be used in my classroom however, is not encouraged and I hope to correct all misbehavior before we reach this form of discipline. First I will have to discuss with the student the problem and ask the student what they believe she/he did wrong. I will then give the option to change the outcome and ask what should have been done differently. Using a talk it out session with the student, I allow time for the student to reflect on what has been done. Since PTA is for the class, time will not be taken away from the total bank. However, I will ask the student what he thinks should be done. I will then explain to him that we need to be responsible for our actions. Depending on the students reflection I will then decide if a warning should be administered or if I need to take more action.

Creating a classroom management plan has allowed me to reflect on my beliefs and aspirations as a teacher. It has given me the opportunity to think about my future classroom and what is important to me as a teacher. I look forward to implementing and adapting my philosophy as I grow as a teacher. I am truly excited to take the next step in creating my classroom.

Classroom Arrangement



