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Discipline Observation

Every classroom teacher comes up with a discipline plan for their class, and Mrs. Russell's classroom was no different. The rules are very typical, if you get in trouble you are required to pull a card, and the teacher says something and sticks to it. As an observer in the classroom there are some things that you think is a good plan and there are the others that you think to yourself what were they thinking.

The rules in this classroom include things like; keep your hands to yourself. Also do not use any put downs within the classroom. I think that this is a very important aspect to include within the rules, especially at a racially mixed school. I think that this helps the students to see themselves as more equal to their classmates. The next two rules which are kind of related raise your hand if you have something to say, and also listen when someone else is talking. These are both very standard rules for any school. The last thing that I think is a very good rule is to stay in your seat unless you ask for permission or the teacher instructs you to. To be honest I am not sure how these rules came about but I feel as though when I become a teacher one of the main things that I want to incorporate is allowing the students to help create the rules. Then they are more likely to follow the rules if they help to create them.

There are two main things that happen if a student disobeys a rule. The first is that they are required to "pull a card". Within the classroom there are envelopes with each student's name and in the envelope there are four cards. These include a school zone sign which stands for a warning, then next comes a green stop light card and this

means that you have a time out or you are going to be required to stay in for recess. The last two cards are a yellow light card and a red light card. Once it gets on the red light this means that you are going to have to call home and most likely you are going to get a parent – teacher conference. The other form of discipline used is where the student or students that are misbehaving are sent to the hall and Mrs. Russell talks to them. She starts off by telling them what they did wrong and then asks them what they are going to do to change their action. She ends by telling them their punishment and gives them their final warning until the next phase.

I personally feel that Mrs. Russell does a very good job overall. She rewards them for good behavior and punishes them for bad. Usually the punishment fits the “crime” per say. She does not have certain punishments chosen she relates it to what the student has done wrong. I especially gain a lot of respect for her in the aspect that she gives a warning and then sticks to it. There are teachers that give the warning and then never carry through with the punishment, and I personally feel as though if you give a warning you need to hold your ground on it. This was especially apparent with one student in particular, he was acting perfect all morning so she rewarded him with a “star”. As she was giving this star to him she said that if he did anything wrong that afternoon then she would not be afraid to take the star away. This student came in from recess and started pushing another student so the teacher responded by taking him to the hallway. She basically told him that because of his behavior the star would be taken away. So overall I think that it was perfectly acceptable. She gave her word and stuck to it, and overall I think that that are the most important part of a discipline procedure for any classroom.