

Respectful Classroom Environments

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Intro to Early Childhood

2 April 2008

In Regina Miller and Joan Pedro's article *Creating Respectful Classroom Environments* they talked about how important it is to create a respectful classroom environment so everyone is able to communicate and learn in your classroom. Respect is defined as one of the key parts of the school from the students all the way through administrators. The article gives a checklist telling you how teachers, students, and the classroom should be respectful so everyone is getting the most out of the learning process.

Through out the article, Regina Miller and Joan Pedro talk about how to build a respectful learning environment and how that respect is built up through students, teachers, administration, and the community. Miller and Pedro state "in order to foster respect among students, teachers need to reflect on their values and biases, consider the contexts of students' lives and ponder what it is they are teaching their students" (p. 295). This statement indicates teachers have to know their own values, but they also have to understand their students' lives and respect them. When teachers develop a respectful classroom, they need to self-reflect to see what is working and what is not. The school also has to respect the classroom teacher in developing their respectful classroom environment. The teachers also have to state rules and expectations so the students know that no respectful actions will be frowned upon and not tolerated. Miller and Pedro say that "you show no tolerance for social exclusion or harassment of individuals within that environment" (p. 296). This statement backs up the zero tolerance of harassment in schools; it also shows harassment is not accepted in society. "Children need to learn that regardless of color, heritage, socioeconomic level, etc. all children in the class will have equal access as well as equal responsibility"(p. 296). The classroom teacher has to make sure that all students are treated equal by both the students and the teacher. Creating a respectful classroom environment

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will help both teachers and students communicate easily. Having a respectful environment in classroom involves not only the teacher and student, but it involves the school administration and the community.

There are a lot of people involved in building a respectful classroom environment. The first step into developing a respectful classroom environment is the teacher building a relationship with their students. The students need to have a good relationship with their teacher so they are willing to express feelings and work out problems with their classroom teacher. Teachers need to build a respectful relationship with their students' parents. According to Miller and Pedro, "teaching and learning is much more successful when teachers are able to contact parents as resources for support for themselves and the children they teach" (p. 298). The article talks about how "the community should be nurtured to see schools as center of teaching." This is saying the community needs to support the schools in building respect for the schools and its workers. As teachers begin to develop respectful classroom environments, they need to first have respect from the school corporation and the community.

As a teacher, I will build a respectful classroom environment because I believe that respect by all in the school is a must. Some ways I will build respect in my classroom is by getting to know my students on an individual basis. I will also read the information about my students in the office to know about their home lives so I am better to adapt to their lives. I will also get to know the parents of my students by calling them and having them volunteer in the class so I can call the parents and let them know how their child is doing. I will also have a set of rules and expectations in my room so my students know that I will not accept disrespectful actions in my classroom. I will build a level of respect with the other teachers in my school so

they feel like they can come to me and get advice from me, and I could also take advice from them. In my opinion, you must have a respectful classroom environment to make the most of the learning process.

A respectful classroom is developed in many different steps according Regina Mille and Joan Pedro's article *Creating Respectful Classroom Environments*. The article talks about teachers developing respect by getting to know their students, the student's parents, and the staff members whom they work with. The classroom needs to have a respectful environment so everyone involved is getting all they can get out of the learning process.