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Philosophy of Classroom Management

I could write and teach the world's best lesson, but without good classroom management, none of that would matter. In order to have successful classroom management, I need to love my students as if they were my children. Without love in the classroom, learning becomes a tedious, time consuming job and not a job you love. The discipline and consequences that I choose to use will show students that I love them because they will know that I want what is best for them. Children need rules, guidelines, and punishments to prepare them for the rest of their own lives.

I will provide choices for my students whenever I can. I will usually have the choice I have in mind but let them decide. For example I might say, "I see you do not want to do your math, so I will give you a choice. We have to do your math so for now, you can do these (point to a few) problems or these problems (point to a few)." Choices make the student think about whether or not what they are doing is appropriate. The goal for my students is to get them to choose to do what is right before I even have to say something.

Keeping my expectations consistent is something that I have struggled with in the past. For example, I will give the expectation of raising one's hand to answer a question, yet I will still accept answers that have been blurted out. Because this is confusing to students, it is my goal to clearly communicate to the students what I expect. Managing to maintain calm conversations is a strong skill that I possess, rather than instantly yelling at a child. I want my classroom to be very

conversational based so that ideas and opinions can be heard. I believe that most children act out or disobey because there is a deeper reason or meaning to their behavior. Some students are forced to push down their feelings or are scolded when they start to open up. My classroom is a place where they can feel welcome to share their issues.

Many teachers get upset about a lot of noise or movement in their classroom; I embrace it. If a student needs to get up and in order to move their muscles, so be it. Some students, because of different learning styles, will enhance their learning with the opportunity to freely move about the room. I will strategically place my 'movers' towards the back of the classroom, so that they will not distract the other students. When it comes to noise levels, I will not tolerate screaming. If the students were instructed to talk to their peers and a good conversation gets going, I believe that is a good sign! One way to control the noise level is to play music during work periods. Students will then listen to the music to ensure that their voices never rise above it.

I believe in chastisement rather than punishment. Punishment happens out of anger and wanted the person to suffer, while chastisement happens out of love. I take away the toy the student has been mesmerized with all day because I know they need to pay attention. This is done out of love and wanting them to be successful. Love is what will be at the forefront of everything I do in my classroom.

"Control your classroom," is what a lot of teachers hear. The ironic aspect of this statement is that a teacher cannot control a person; they manage. Students need rules, procedures, courtesies, and guidance in order to learn to their full potential. Getting students to follow these is hard because teachers cannot force them to do these things. I believe I will have success with

my students if I make it very clear that if they follow my guidelines, they will be more successful and have more fun.

Managing a class is going to be hard and I have a lot to learn still. I will have a good start if I am very clear with my students regarding all my expectations. Above all, love in the classroom is what I know will work. If I did not show my love, I might as well pack up my pencils and leave the classroom.