

Bethany Lutheran College

Permissive Classroom Management

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EDUC 455
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10/1/16

The classroom management style that I picked to research is the Permissive style. In this paper I will talk about what the Permissive style actually is, what the pros and cons are, what it may look like, and what it may sound like. I will also go over when and when it is not appropriate to use this style of management. I will also talk about whether or not I would ever consider using this type of classroom management style in my future classrooms.

Teachers in this category are often “too nice.” They want students to like them and they want to be helpful, so they are warm and supportive but not very good at setting limits. Permissive teachers may focus on effort while de-emphasizing the quality of students’ productions. Disruptive behavior may be ignored or handled with weak, soft-spoken “reprimands” or pleading. While warmth and support are good qualities, students still appreciate discipline even if they don’t show it. The cost of the permissive style is a classroom that is out of control. Constructive learning does not flow well. While students may describe a permissive teacher as “nice and easy”, when push comes to shove they do not feel that they can trust her to take care of problem situations.

There are some pro’s to this style of management. For instance, students will usually feel very comfortable with permissive style teachers. They know that they can say something or ask a question and they won’t be “jumped” on so to speak. This often times will put the students at ease and will make more willing to make mistakes. It is said that teachers who are using the permissive style often times make their students feel warm and cozy. I view this as a pro for teachers, but it could also be used against the teachers also. I believe it is essential to students learning that they feel comfortable

and at ease while in the classroom. Nobody likes an environment where everyone is scared to say or do something because they are walking on eggshells so to speak.

Students also enjoy being able to make decisions on their own and not being forced into something they may not like. The permissive style of management allows students to think and make decisions on their own. This can allow for students to tap into their creativity and to come up with new ideas or concepts that may have not of been thought of otherwise. This style would work best with students who enjoy each other and can succeed even without a leader to tell them their next step. This management style allows for new leaders to grow and emerge in the classroom without forcing them. They may need some guidance along the way.

There are many cons to using this type of classroom management. First off, the students may feel more like they have a friend teaching them, rather than a teaching professional. Teachers are there for one main goal and that's to teach, they are not in the classrooms to make everybody feel good and be buddy buddy with them. This style also makes it hard for teachers to set standards for the class and to hold them to it.

Teachers who use this style often times want students to like them, that can make it hard for them to reprimand them when they need it(Assertive Discipline) . They often times put personal feelings before what's best for the class and for the students. As I stated in the on the first page, disruptive behavior is often times handled with weak or soft spoken reprimands. Other students will see that "Johnny" didn't get in trouble when he acted out, so does that mean that I can get away with acting out or being

naughty also? This sets a horrible example for students who are young and very impressionable.

Another con about the permissive style of management is that students need and many times want structure. This gives them a sense of what to do, and how to accomplish it. Students also desire to be disciplined. Contrary to what many believe, being disciplined actually gives the students a sense of comfort that the teacher actually cares and that it is not acceptable to do certain behaviors (Classroom Management Styles) .

I stated above that freedom in the classroom will allow students to grow and sometimes become leaders. This can also take a turn for the worse. Students in a permissive style classroom can take the reins from the teacher and go the total opposite direction the teacher may have wanted. Students may think that they are doing the assignment or project right because the teacher did not lay out the rules and the objectives for a task. This is where giving the students too much freedom to make their own decisions can hurt the students and also the class as a whole.

I do believe that this style of management can work, only at the right times though. There have been times where I have had a class in college where the professor gives us very broad guidelines and basically says get to it. These projects or assignments are usually very unique and highly creative. Often times the professor or teacher wants to see what the students can brainstorm and what they can create on their own without the teacher pushing them to the finished product. This style promotes higher level thinking if given the right guidance and practice.

I believe that this strategy would be horrible to use for younger grades. Younger students need guidance and instructions. The less instructions and guidance with the younger students the worse off the class will be. I believe that this strategy can be used for older students possible in high school or even maybe 8th grade.

I would maybe use this strategy if I was teaching older students, and I would not use this very often. While I believe that there are some pros with this style, I believe that the cons out-weigh the pros. Children need structure and guidance and discipline, this strategy overall lacks all three of these key elements to teaching.

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