

My Philosophy of Classroom Management

In order for me to create my ideal philosophy of classroom management, I have to focus on several individual factors that I believe, greatly contribute towards this goal. Not only do I have to include these factors, but I also have to make sure to address how I will be able to manage my classroom with the combination of my teaching experience and philosophy beliefs.

The one theoretical approach that I favor the most is that of B.F. Skinner. I do value others as well as every approach seems to be effective when paired with a great teaching mind and a bag of strategies, however I have always felt most connected to operant conditioning. In order for me as a teacher to be successful in this, I have to be consistent with my theoretical approach. I have always favored rewards, positive and negative reinforcement and as mentioned above, and I have to be consistent in order to maintain control over my classroom. The rewards I would like to use for example would include food/snacks and dance/music; I would integrate this idea to many lesson plans as I believe that students will be able to learn hands on where they can feel and observe with more concentration, just like with dance/music where they are able to use more of their senses and also will be able to stay fit (BDNF-Brain derived neuro factors which I have learned in our EDEE 664 course and am a great fan of student fitness to achieve better brain function for learning). Another great positive and negative reinforcement would be gaining some sort of a privilege such as extra recess time or library time after finishing early with an assignment. By not completing a task on time, students would be in charge of their own actions and miss out on those privileges.

I feel it is essential for students to understand that we are a community; this would definitely foster a mutual teacher/student respect for one another. More importantly, the students have to feel important and needed; they should feel respected, comfortable in their environment, and as a teacher I should give verbal rewards just as well which will make students feel successful in what they are doing.

I believe that students in my future classroom will learn in different ways, and no child is alike in their way of being able to absorb information and learn. One size does not fit All. I will do my best to include differentiated teaching techniques and strategies to reach every student in my class, as I do believe we all learn best with individual learning styles such as kinesthetic, visual or auditory.

I will provide the best classroom and learning environment that I can possibly offer my future students. My classroom will be warm and comforting, with students wanting to spend their time there learning. My classroom will have every student's creative contribution displayed throughout to let them know that it is not only my classroom, but also theirs. I generally think I should change the student desks occasionally or at least once every few weeks; reason for doing so is to keep student focus and change their scenery as well as a constant stationary will seem boring at some point which can result in more restless individuals. I feel it is also essential for my students to be able to move around the classroom throughout the day to keep being physically active which result in more engaged minds. I will try to cluster the student desks to create stations throughout which I can again use for lesson strategies and group work which will foster great discussion skills and peer relationships. I will hold weekly classroom meetings where we can elaborate on what we have learned, news, and any concerns students might have; I feel this will definitely give students a sense of community as they are able to give their personal feedback and opinions.

I believe it is also essential for me to have a great communicational relationship with my students' parents and families; I need to be aware of our growing diverse community and for myself to be educated with cultures and diversity backgrounds as I could have a great diverse classroom. I can stay in communication with my student's parents through parent night, weekly phone-calls, daily email updates on students' progress, weekly newsletters, through my website, and through so many more ways.

I feel it is also important for me to provide my classroom with a discipline plan as well as classroom rules and a daily routine schedule so students have the feel of a community and are able to learn how a community works. They will be able to contribute to their classroom by being helping team members.

One of my more important factors is to be aware of discipline and discipline issues that can arise in a normal classroom. There are so many sources available to help me succeed in this task. One educational website that I have been frequently using since EDEE 606 is the Vanderbilt IRIS modules which give perfect scenarios for situations that can arise, and the solutions that teacher can result to in order to effectively tackle the situations. These Modules also help for example how to be aware of discipline problems and how to tackle them before they could get out of hand. I feel these are strong resources that will help me insure that my students are able to focus on learning and not get frustrated with simple triggers.

By considering all the learned factors on teaching strategies, then I believe I have a well laid out philosophy of classroom management which thrives to achieve one overall universal goal- our students' success.