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Elem. Ed. 360
October 30, 2012

Classroom Management Philosophy

Classroom management used to be an ambiguous term to me. However, now that I have had some hands-on experience, I feel more confident. This confidence stems from the definitive purpose of classroom management that has developed for me. Without classroom management, it is not possible to create a classroom that is conducive to learning. The purpose of classroom management, therefore, is to enable yourself to teach and your students to learn.

When I envision my future classroom, I see a room that is built to support my classroom management strategies. On the walls, I see numerous anchor charts that have been co-created with my students that list expectations, routines, procedures, goals, and a class mission statement. To promote independence from me, I will group my students strategically in cooperative table groups. Each group will have a compilation of students of different genders and ability levels. Through these groups, students will be encouraged to support each other and to rely on me less. Students will not only be taught cooperative learning skills to allow them to work in groups, but they will also be taught social skills that will enable them to be assertive, which will empower them to problem solve. Through working in groups, students will learn many important life skills such as cooperation, listening, recognizing how actions affect others, and time management. To contrast the definitive table groups, I will have a large area rug near the white board where we can assemble as a community. This is where most instruction that involves

expectations will take place. To make my classroom comfortable, the climate will always promote community, safety, and positive social interactions.

In order to build an effective classroom, creating and implementing strong prevention strategies is extremely important. A strategy like the Brain Smart Start is a great way to gauge student emotions so you know how to support them; it also gives students an immediate positive interaction. Morning Meeting is another way to give students the support they may need as it helps them realize their classmates care about them. Incorporating stretching and breathing breaks is another way to relieve stress and boredom that students may experience throughout the day. Above all, aside from these physical prevention strategies, it is essential on the very first day, and every day after, to make it clear what your expectations are. This should be done cooperatively with your students, so they feel valued and respected. Beyond classroom expectations, it is also important to be clear with expectations during everyday teaching. It is essential to avoid giving students' vague directions or guidance. This creates confusion and stress for students, which will ultimately lead to negative behaviors.

While classroom management may have been something of a mystery to me before, I now clearly understand the importance of it as well as a variety of strategies that can be implemented. I think it is important to remember that, despite my best intentions, my classroom management strategies may not always work out. That is why it is critical as I journey through my career to be reflective. I need to be able to figure out why some strategies did not work, and how I can improve. Without a strong classroom management system, I will not be able to be an effective teacher, and my students will not be able to be effective learners.