



# Classroom Management



## What is Classroom Management?

\*Classroom management refers to all of the things a teacher does to organize student space, time, and materials to foster student involvement and cooperation in the classroom and to establish a productive working environment.

-(Harry & Rosemary Wong (1998). The first days of school. H.K. Wong publications)

## Jacob S. Kounin

- ✧ Educational theorist
- ✧ One of the first to study classroom management in the 1970's
- ✧ Focused on preventive discipline techniques & strategies designed to prevent occurrence problems
- ✧ Believes that good classroom management depends on effective lesson management

## Characteristics of a well-managed classroom

- ✧ Students deeply involved in their work
- ✧ Students know what is expected of them
- ✧ Students are generally successful
- ✧ Little wasted time, disruption, and confusion
- ✧ Classroom climate is work oriented, relaxed, and positive

## Importance of Good Communication

- ✶ **Teachers who communicate effectively with students have better results in managing their students**
- ✶ **Communication with parents is also essential**
  - *Students' home environment can either foster good study skills and appropriate classroom behavior or undermine the lessons you are working to get across.*
- ✶ **Ways you can improve your communication skills-** *talking to other teachers, listen to yourself on tape, take a course, practice in a mirror.*

## Responding to Student Behavior

- ✶ **"I" Messages-** a clear, direct, assertive statement about exactly what a student did that constitutes misbehaving, how the misbehavior affects the teacher's ability to teach, and how teacher feels about misbehavior.
  - Does not immediately demand or require change in behavior on the part of the student.
  - **GOAL** of "I" message- to effect a voluntary change in the student's behavior by appealing to the student's conscience and desire to do the right thing.

## Who Owns the Problem?

### ✶ When Student Owns the Problem-

- **Active Listening-** consists of allotting the time to listen to a student in an active and concerned manner, encouraging the student to state the problem fully.
- **Paraphrase Rule-** designed to promote accurate communication. Summarization of what the other person said.

### ✶ When the Teacher Owns the Problem-

- **No-Lose Method-** The concept behind the no- lose method is that resolving conflicts will be easier and more productive if neither you nor the student feel you are losing.

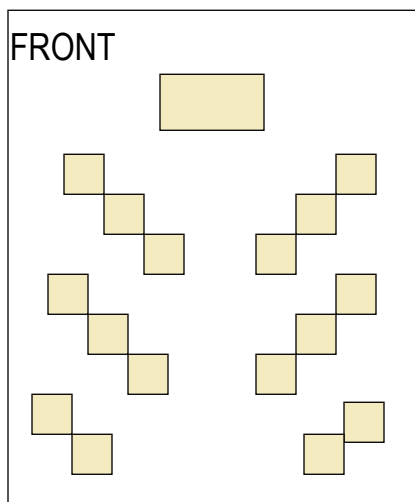
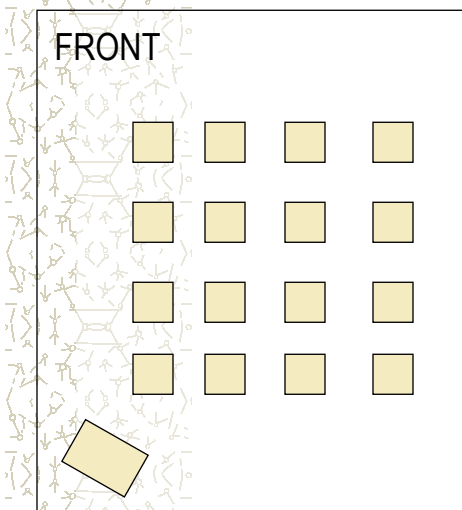
## Proactive Classroom Management

- ✶ Organize the classroom in a way to prevent problems from occurring:
  - Structure the classroom
  - Post classroom rules
  - Have class wide behavior management plan in place from the beginning of the year
  - Prepare the lessons to avoid “down-time” and extended periods of independent work

## How Effective Teachers Manage Their Students

- ✶ Be Well Prepared
- ✶ “With-it-ness”
- ✶ Coping with Numerous Situations
- ✶ Creating Momentum and Smooth Transitions
- ✶ Involving Every Student
- ✶ Generating Enthusiasm
- ✶ Criticizing Students Constructively
- ✶ Initially Work with the Whole Group

## Classroom Structure



## Encouraging Good Behavior: Using Reinforcement Effectively

- ✶ Students want attention
  - Give them attention for good behavior
  - Do NOT give them attention for inappropriate behavior
- ✶ Social Reinforcement
  - Praise, Smiles
- ✶ Material Reinforcement
  - Certificates/Notes home, Class party
- ✶ Edible Reinforcement
  - Candy, juice, etc...

## Why establish classroom rules?

- ✶ Rules are the backbone of effective behavior management in the classroom.
- ✶ Rules communicate your expectations to the students.
- ✶ Rules provide a basis for teachers to catch students “being good”.

## Who should select the rules?

- ✱ The teacher should select the rules *before* the first day of class.
- ✱ Students should not select their own rules; however, there should be a structured procedure for students to question the rules.

## Why students shouldn't select classroom rules:

- ✱ Student-selected rules tend to be more strict than teacher selected rules.
- ✱ When self-selecting rules, students tend to be overly punitive.
- ✱ Students often generate too many rules and the rules tend to be non-specific.
- ✱ Some students may not want to follow rules selected by other students.

## Characteristics of Good Rules

- ✶ The number of rules should be kept to a minimum.  
About five rules is best.
- ✶ The wording of rules should be simple – pictures may help younger students.
- ✶ Rules should be stated positively: use Do instead of Don't.
- ✶ Rules must be written in specific and observable terms.  
Don't leave room for interpretation!
- ✶ Always include a compliance rule.

## Examples of Rules:

### ✶ Inappropriate Rules:

- Be responsible
- Pay attention
- Respect others
- Do your best
- Don't speak out of turn

### ✶ Appropriate Rules:

- Be on time for class
- Do what your teacher asks immediately
- Keep your hands, feet, and, objects to yourself
- Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak



## Enforcing Good Rules

- ✶ Rules should be publicly posted in a prominent place.
- ✶ Following the rules must be tied to consequences.
  - What will happen when the students follow the rules?
  - What will happen when the students don't follow the rules?
- ✶ Always be consistent.

## How to teach rules to students:

- ✶ Post the rules *before* the beginning of the first class.
- ✶ At the beginning of the first class:
  - Introduce the rules to the students.
  - Explain what will happen when the rules are followed and when the rules are not followed.
  - Allow students time to practice following the rules and provide feedback.
  - Praise as many students as you can for following the rules throughout the class.



## Teaching students the rules

- ✶ On subsequent days of class:
  - Quickly review all the rules or highlight one rule to review.
  - Allow time at the beginning of each class for any student to question the fairness or utility of any rule; DO NOT allow students to question rules during any other time!
  - Continue to catch students following the rules and reward them.



## Tips for success

- ✶ Implement rules consistently for all students.
- ✶ Focus on positive rather than negative behavior.
- ✶ Review the rules periodically, especially after breaks and during periods of problem behavior.

## Classroom Rules

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Be Positive**



**Only 5**



**Observable**



## Classroom Behavior Management Plans

- ✦ Football Game
- ✦ Classroom Noise Traffic Light
- ✦ Respectful Classroom
- ✦ Talk tickets
- ✦ Mystery Motivator
- ✦ "Caught Being Good"
- ✦ Various Token Economies
- ✦ Lottery with or without response cost
- ✦ Chart Moves