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November 5<sup>th</sup> 2007

## Classroom Rules and Guidelines for Success

1)

Grade 2/3 Rules:

1. We raise our hand to speak.
2. We keep hands, feet, and objects to ourselves.
3. We walk in the classroom and hall.
4. We listen when our teacher or classmate is speaking.
5. We follow directions

Grade 2/3 Guidelines for success:

1. Be polite.
2. Be kind.
3. Be responsible.
4. Be considerate.

2) How will my rules and guidelines be established?

The rules and guidelines in my class will be presented to the students at the beginning of the year. I have chosen not to have the students create them because I want to begin to use them right away. On the first day of school the rules and guidelines will be posted in a prominent place so the students can see them at all times. Once the class is settled and we have done some get-to-know-you games I would begin a class discussion about the rules and guidelines that are posted. I would explain that a *rule* is a specific behaviour I expect of them and if the rules are not followed there are appropriate consequences and a *guideline* is an attitude or action the students should try to follow to succeed. An example of a situation where I would enact an appropriate consequence would be if a student calls out in class I would write their name on the board, and if they call out again a check mark will be put next to their name and they will be asked to stay in at recess and write an apology to the class for disrupting their learning. After explaining the difference between a rule and a guideline I would ask the students to come up with scenarios of what each rule and guideline would look like if students were following and striving to meet the rules and guidelines (students could act out the scenarios if they feel comfortable).

3) What creative strategies will I use to teach and reinforce the rules and guidelines?

The rules and guidelines in my class will be used everyday to help reinforce their importance. When I see students following the rules I will make sure to comment on them. For example, "Tom, I really appreciate how well you listened to my instructions, you are doing a great job of following our classroom rules." I would also refer to the rules when students are not behaving properly. For instance, if the class had walk noisily down

the hall I would say something like, “we have a rule in our class that states we will walk down the halls quietly. Let’s try walking down the hall again, the way we are supposed to.” The rules and guidelines would also be reinforced through journal writing themes. Every so-often I would give the students a journal theme around the rules and guidelines of our class (i.e. what are you doing to be kind to people in our class?) And finally, I believe these rules and guidelines can be addressed during weekly classroom meetings, where students can bring up any problems or concerns they are having.

I believe rules and guidelines are the first step toward proactive classroom management. Setting a firm foundation of how the classroom should look, feel and sound will give students a sense of safety and comfort, so they will be ready to learn.