

Classroom Management: Tips for Success!

- **Follow Through**-The key for successful classroom management is to follow through with your established consequence and reward system. This means that if the consequence for losing three stars is calling parents, you need to be sure the parents are called.* If you don't follow through with "threats", the students won't take you seriously. *(Area managers will make any and all parent calls)
- **Be Sensitive**-Be firm, but never shame students or have them sit out of your class. Also, always kneel down to the students' level when talking to them about behavior.
- **Seating**-Don't be afraid of assigning seats. This means you can even move students when playing games or sitting in a circle. Sitting students boy, girl, boy, girl is a good technique.
- **Be positive!** Be sure to always reinforce positive behavior with praise. "*Gracias por escuchar. Gracias por levantar la mano. etc.* "
- **Helpers**- If you have a child that seems to be the "class clown" try to give him/her special duties, so they are distracted and you are rewarding positive rather than negative behavior. For example: Ask that student to be your helper and to write on the board, hand out papers, etc. Also, really notice when these children are doing the "right" thing.
- **Collective Activities**- Doing activities as a group rather than individually will help prevent rowdy behavior. When conducting an activity, sit in a circle and make sure all children are actively participating. Know where all your students are at all times!
- **Take Away Distractions**-After an activity such as snack or a craft, have the students put everything away and have the table cleared. Also, if you ever see the students with games or other distracting objects take them away for the duration of the class.
- **Be the Leader!**-You can still have fun and be well-liked while demonstrating that you are the authority figure. This means having a lesson plan and not asking the students what they want to do. (Be sure to notice, however, when an activity is not working and move on to something else!)
- **Notice restlessness**-Some days the kids are more restless than normal—that is totally typical, but make sure you recognize it. Instead of a sitting activity you were going to do, try a song, dance or a physical game.
- **Switch activities often**-If you are correctly following the Building Block Method of Learning®, you are switching activities every 5-7 minutes, which will help you keep the children's attention. Remember to incorporate various subjects in one class period as well.