

1. Students choose their behavior

Students choose their behavior. How they behave is not outside their control. Virtually all can behave properly when they see the need to do so. Students need to feel that they belong in the classroom. This means they must perceive themselves to be important, worthwhile, and valued. When students misbehave, their goal is usually either to gain attention, gain power, exact revenge, or avoid failure. At times, misbehavior can also occur because of exuberance or simply not knowing the proper way to behave..

2. Teachers can only influence student behavior

Teachers can only influence student behavior; they cannot directly control it. By knowing which goal students are seeking teachers can exert positive influence on behavior choices that students make. Teachers in general reflect three styles of classroom management: permissive, autocratic, and democratic. Of the three, the democratic style best promotes good discipline. Albert refers to these three styles as the hands-off, hands-on, and hands-joined styles.

3. The Three C's

The Three C's -- capable, connect, and contribute - - are essential in helping students feel a sense of belonging. When students feel capable, they are able to connect personally with peers and teachers and able to make contributions to the class and elsewhere. With the three C's in place, the incidence of misbehavior drops dramatically. Teachers should work cooperatively with students to develop a classroom code of conduct. The code of conduct stipulates the kind of behavior expected of everyone in the class..

4. Teachers should also work cooperatively

Teachers should also work cooperatively with students to develop a set of consequences to be invoked when the classroom code of conduct is transgressed. When students participate in developing consequences, they are more likely to accept them as fair and reasonable. When conflicts occur between teacher and students, the teacher should remain cool and relaxed. Teachers should adopt a businesslike attitude and use a calm yet firm tone of voice.

5. Encouragement most powerful teaching tool

Encouragement is the most powerful teaching tool available to teachers. Few things motivate good behavior as much as does teacher encouragement. Teachers should remember that in order to develop a good system of discipline, they require the cooperation of students and parents. Both should be valued as partners and their contributions brought meaningfully into cooperative discipline.



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