

Working Successfully with Difficult Students

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Presenters:

Dr. Nikki Boyd Rana

Mr. Marc Flatt

Objectives

1. The attendee will learn proven strategies for creating a prevention-based discipline system that is intended to prevent most challenging discipline issues before they begin.
2. The attendee will learn strategies for diffusing confrontational students, avoiding power struggles, deescalating student anger, and dealing with the most challenging behavior-related issues.
3. The attendee will learn strategies for implementing powerful consequences in a way that allows both teacher and student to preserve dignity.

Agenda

■ Vital Components of Effective Classroom Discipline

- Positive Teacher-Student Relations
- Clearly Defined Acceptable Classroom Behaviors
- Consistent Monitoring
- Application of Consequences

■ Schoolwide Discipline

- Philosophical Beliefs
- Prevention Strategies
- Consequences
- Policies for Specific Building Locations

■ Surefire Discipline Strategies

- Relationship Strategies
- Parameter Strategies
- Monitoring Strategies
- Consequence Strategies

■ The Challenging Student

- Dealing with Challenging Students
- Responding to Classroom Disruptions
- Dealing with Major Rule Violations
- Students with Anger Management Issues
- Students with Oppositional Defiant Disorder
- Students with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

Vital Components of Effective Classroom Discipline

Positive Teacher-Student Relations

- Communicate Positive Expectations
- Call on All Students Equitably
- Increase Latency Periods When Questioning Students
- Give Hints and Clues to Help Students Answer Questions
- Tell Students They Have the Ability to Do Well
- Correct Students in a Constructive Way
- Develop Positive Classroom Pride
- Demonstrate Genuine Caring
- Prevent and Reduce Frustration and Stress

Clearly Defined Acceptable Classroom Behaviors

▪ Discipline Plan

- Select rules that are meaningful, specific, and enforceable
- Establish consequences for students who fail to comply
- Teach the discipline plan to the students
- Post the discipline plan in an easily seen classroom location
- Communicate the discipline plan to stakeholders
- Enforce the discipline plan fairly, consistently, and equitably.

▪ Rules of Conduct

- Expectations for participating in class discussions
- Expectations for seat work activities
- What students should bring to class to be prepared
- How to seek the teacher's assistance
- When, where, and how to turn in completed work

▪ Teach Discipline Plan and Rules of Conduct

- Begin with a set
- Explain the logic and rationale for each rule
- Model the behavior that is expected
- Allow for questions and answers
- Direct students to demonstrate their understanding
- Reteach the discipline plan and rules of conduct

▪ Consistent Monitoring

- Maintain Proximity
- Invoke Silence
- Provide Response Opportunities
- Practice "The Look"
- Use All These Skills Simultaneously

▪ Application of Consequences

- Teacher reaction
- Tangible recognition
- Direct cost
- Group contingency
- Home contingency

Relationship Strategies

- Don't Be One of the Kids
- Never Use Humiliation or Sarcasm
- Start Parent Conferences with Positive Statements
- Start Difficult Conferences with the Student Outside of the Room
- Let the Parents Get Their Message Out First
- Make Some Concessions
- Talk About the Future
- Call Parents Before a Disciplined Student Gets Home
- Actively Encourage Parents to Call the School
- Increase the Power of Praise
- Smile and Greet the Students
- Learn Students' Names

Parameter Strategies

- Teach the Discipline Plan and Rules of Conduct
- Teach and Enforce a Classroom Signal
- Get the "Junk" Off the Desks
- Teach the Logic Behind the Rules
- Post Classroom Rules
- Post School Rules
- Establish a Schoolwide Signal
- Provide Support for Substitutes

Monitoring Strategies

- Move Around the Room
- Call on Students at Any Time
- Eliminate Blind Spots During Classroom Transitions
- Go to the Students When They Need Help
- Maximize Wait Time
- Correct Nondisruptive Off-Task Behavior
- Take Roll Silently
- Use Sponge Activities
- Remember the Three "Make or Break" Times
- Change Hall Passes
- Encourage Students to Leave the Building
- Stagger Transition Periods

Consequence Strategies

- Tolerate No Exceptions
- Pay Attention Even to Little Problems
- Keep Your Physical Distance When Disciplining
- Refrain from Punishing the Whole Group
- Don't Let Students Become "Attorneys"
- Take Notice of Misbehavior
- Assign Lunch Detention for Tardies

The Challenging Student

Dealing with Challenging Students

- *Relationship/Climate Strategies*
 1. Gradually Assign Responsibility and Leadership
 2. Display a Personal Interest Daily
 3. Drop All Grudges
 4. Limit Negative Faculty Room Talk
 5. Open Parent Conferences with a Positive Statement
- *Academic Strategies*
 1. Keep the Class Moving
 2. Unleash the Power of Appropriately High Expectations
- *Disciplinary Strategies*
 1. Bargaining Is Not an Option
 2. Criticize the Action, Not the Student
 3. Have an Emergency Response Team in Place
 4. Have a Buddy Teacher Available to Help Out
 5. Apply Immediate and Meaningful Consequences
 6. Judge Students' Actions Fairly
- *Disciplinary Strategies*
 1. Make the "Death Penalty" the Last Option
 2. Never Intervene Physically with a Student
 3. Provide the Student with Choices
 4. Quiet Corrections Are the Most Powerful
 5. Reward Students for Accomplishments, Not Promises
 6. Saving Face Is Everything

Responding to Classroom Disruptions

1. Always protect the safety of all students, including the disruptive student.
2. Use the technique requiring the least intervention that will still be sufficient to address the problem rather than go overboard in your response.
3. Be sure that your response doesn't cause more of a disturbance than the student's disruption does.
4. Encourage students to examine their behavior and make an appropriate choice.
5. Speak about the situation and not the student.
6. Give specific directions.
7. Intervene in a timely manner.

Dealing with Major Rule Violations

1. Power Struggles
2. Student Honesty
3. Determining Guilt

Students with Anger Management Issues

1. Approaches for Working with Anger
2. Consequences for Inappropriate Student Anger

Students with Oppositional Defiant Disorder

- ODD Factors
- Misconceptions Regarding ODD
- Strategies for Working with Students with ODD
 - Redirect the Student's Behavior
 - Ask Questions That Provide Acceptable Alternatives
 - Help with Time Management
 - Avoid Surprises
 - Watch for Initial Signs That the Student Is Becoming Upset
 - Build Relationships
 - Adjust the Academic Schedule
 - Meet the Ability Level of the Student
 - Have Preset Procedures for Classroom Removal

Students with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

- *Teaching and Management Strategies*
 - Selectively Ignore Misbehaviors
 - Redirect with Prearranged Signals and Nonverbal Gestures
 - Avoid Classroom "Down Time"
 - Provide an Alternative Activity
 - Display Desired Behaviors on Charts and Graphs
 - Teach Step-by-Step Behavioral Expectations
 - Schedule Breaks and Activities
 - Select a "Buddy" to Help
 - Establish a Nonstimulating and Quiet Location
 - Ask the Student to Repeat Directions
 - Allow the Student to Hold Something During Teacher-Led Instruction
 - Set Clearly Defined and Marked Classroom Boundaries
 - Working Successfully with Difficult Students
 - Encourage Participation in Extracurricular Activities
 - Adjust Homework Expectations
 - Use Auditory and Visual Cues to Help Focus Attention and Emphasize Critical Points
 - Consider Letting Students Use Headphones
 - Teach Appropriate "Help Needed" Strategies
 - Select Assignments at the Correct Level of Difficulty
 - Place the Student's Desk in a Nondistracting Location
 - Assign Jobs
 - Use Stretch Times
 - Use Findings from Time Studies
 - Build on Incidental Learning Capabilities