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Classroom Management/Organization

4-26-14

Personalized Classroom Management Plan

After putting in four long years of classes and tests I will finally reach my goal of becoming a teacher. When my goal is met, I plan to be a kindergarten or first grade teacher. I chose these grades because these are the grades that have touched my heart the most. Teaching the younger children can be a bit of a challenge, because it’s their very first years of school. However, I strongly believe that the better classroom management plan you have the more smoothly things will run in your classroom. Good classroom management consists of ensuring mindful behavior, creating a caring atmosphere, keeping an appropriate curriculum and providing fun collective activities. “The ultimate goal of classroom management should not be on simple obedience, but on having students behave appropriately because they know it’s the right thing to do and because they can understand how their actions affect other people” (Hardin, 2008, p. 142).

Being a teacher of first year students, it will be my job to ensure that they make a comfortable transition into their schooling routine. I will also need to not only provide a fun educational experience for my students but also ensure their safety as well. My plan is to ensure that all of my students enjoy coming to school each day, and to also make sure that they have met the needed standards to proceed to the next grade. “Its not what is poured into a student that counts but what is planted” (Conway, 2010).

There are many theorists whom have influenced education with their ideas and concepts. That being said, there are a couple whose ideas I feel I will use in my classroom. Although he is a psychologist, Jean Piaget contributed a lot to education. Piaget believed that children go through four stages of development. As a kindergarten or first grade teacher it is important for me to understand the Pre-operational stage of development. This is the stage children are in from ages 2-7. According to Piaget, children who are in this stage are still in an egocentric mind set, thus meaning they don’t understand things from another person’s point of view. This is also the stage where children become symbolic. This means that my students become able to represent, understand and picture objects in their minds even when they don’t have the objects in front of them. When children are able to do this, they then can become involved in symbolic play. Symbolism and symbolic play will be used a lot throughout my classroom. I feel this gives my students a chance to not only use their creativity and imaginations but also imitate other roles as well.

“Behavior is a mirror in which everyone displays their own image”(Van Goethe, 1782). I feel that having good classroom management can help prevent misbehaviors from occurring in the classroom. There are many things that I will do in my classroom to make this happen. One thing I will do is have rules for my students. Theorist Harry Wong believes that the best way to accomplish good classroom behavior is to be specific and clear with your students, I agree with this. I will have the general rules of Keeping hands, feet and other objects to yourself, no talking when the teacher is talking and treat others how you want to be treated. However, I feel it is important to incorporate the students opinions on what they feel should be expected from them. This gives them the chance to have a voice in things and not feel so controlled. By letting the students help create a set of classroom rules, they are able to take ownership of their actions when they have broken the rules. This will create positive behavior management in our students at a young age, which will help them later in life.

 Although classroom management can keep a lot of misbehaviors from happening, it can’t prevent all misbehaviors. When misbehaviors do occur, I plan to have a routine that I become very thorough with. I have taken a lot of liking to the pull a card method of discipline. This means when the child misbehaves and has already been redirected, they will pull a card. Each child starts on a green card, which is good. When they are told to pull a card the first time, they will change it to a yellow card, after the yellow card it becomes red. Red is where you do not want to be and usually will consist of consequences. I also believe in using safe spots in the classroom. I feel these give the teacher a way to remove students from disrupting the other students from their learning.

 Being a good teacher doesn’t just happen by putting in your four years of schooling. I will not only continue to learn new ideas and techniques from other teachers but my students will open my eyes to new things as well. I hope that with each yeah I can take in new ideas and let go of ones that don’t work. Each year I can review and reflect on what went well and what needs work. By doing this, I will better my own learning and also help my students succeed in their education, which ultimately is my goal for becoming a teacher.

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Works Cited

Hardin, C. J. (2008). Effective classroom management (2nd ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Merrill Prentice Hall.