

EDU 301 Final Paper

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As a teacher, my goal is to provide a safe, comfortable, inviting, and consistent classroom environment that boosts opportunities for student learning in order to better govern student behavior. In this statement, I will discuss my actions for building and maintaining a well-managed classroom that will better enhance the learning opportunities.

In order to create a safe classroom environment that still enhances the children's opportunity to learn it is important to have the best interest of student safety in mind. Each student's safety can be promoted in my classroom by working with student behavior plans to better promote the safety of not only that individual student but all students involved. Student behavior has often been said to be one of the reasons students do not feel safe in their schools. So it was to no surprise to me that the disorder of school due to safety and behaviors impairs learning and the children's achievements. A large reason that I want this to be a main focus of my classroom management plan is to reduce the risk of burnout or emotional strain on myself as an educator that could influence my feelings of commitment which intern could ultimately lead to a negative attitude towards my students.

In order to create a comfortable environment for my students I will first learn their names and somethings about them. This type of conversation with students makes them feel as if you are more approachable as a teacher which is my main goal. All students are welcome in my classroom, their persons and ideas are all of great value. I will treat all students with equal value, respect, and communicate with all students in a way in that they feel appreciated, cared for, and that their opinion is of value. My ultimate goal is to remain patient and to respond to all students with the utmost respect and care. Using positive reinforcement and always remembering to point out the behaviors we expect rather than the

behavior that you do not like to see is a way I will run my classroom. Each day I will tell my students throughout the day what they are doing great at, at the end of each day during our meeting I will start by toughing on some of the things I thought we did very well throughout the day, follow it with something I think we can work on to make the next day even better, and then end it with another positive so that the students don't leave feeling as if they disappointed me as a teacher. Your actions and attitude as a teacher reflects how your students will feel not only about themselves but about school for years to come, being a positive attitude and behavior role model is the best way to get your students to mimic you.

In order to make my classroom inviting I will greet the students every morning, every day after lunch, and I will stand by the door and tell each one of them goodbye before they leave, having this personal connection with your students automatically makes them feel as though they are welcome in your classroom and is a nice way to invite them into a world of yours as an educator. Another way to make my classroom inviting it will have soft lighting, small nooks for working, the walls will be filled with students work as well as inspirational quotes to help push the children to their fullest potential. My students will have flexible seating options which will be described and up for choice on the first day of school. The students will switch seating options every week but will also be informed that if they are unable to use the seating options properly they will get a regular chair to sit in. Students will be encouraged to work in the nooks not at their desks as much as possible. Management of a classroom with this many free choices for kindergarteners may sound difficult however, allowing children these choices allows them to gain independence and also helps them learn how to make good choices to benefit their learning. Managing these

type of free choices for children is easy if you lay out rules and expectations from the start and follow through with the consequences that were discussed during the rules and expectations.

Consistency and routines are a huge piece for children, especially young children, the consistency helps the children be able to better predict what is coming next and also gives them a sense of feeling like they have some control over what they are doing. Routines helps save time and assist in student management once they are established. Procedures are a key foundation to creating student expectations, this solid foundation allows the teacher to guide the students rather than control them. Once the expectations are established it is much easier for the teacher to guide the students throughout their day to day tasks in the classroom. Guidance is almost impossible when these procedures and expectations are not established in the classroom. Every day in my classroom the day will begin and end the same way so that the students know what to anticipate and how to better know how their day will go. Each morning will start with calendar time and end with a daily meeting, the calendar time will touch on the daily schedule and will also contain activities such as weather, day of the week, and the number of days we have been in school. The end of each day will consist of the daily meeting in which students will be able to reflect on what it is they learned that day as well as touching on what the students did well that day as well as things that we could work on to make the next day even better.

In sum, a well-managed classroom helps to create a safe, comfortable, inviting, and consistent classroom environment. Having a classroom in which I properly balance all of these aspects will be my ultimate goal. Student safety and behavior management is a top concern for myself because in order to reduce distractions and psychosocial stress on not

only the student with the behavior but all other students in the classroom you must be able to properly redirect the student and allow them to feel as though they have a place of belonging inside the classroom. Comfort is something I often searched for and still do inside the classroom which is why it is a focus I hope to be able to conquer. Getting to know your students on a personal level makes your students feel more comfortable and as though you are more approachable. Allowing students the ability to make their own choices inside of the classroom builds a sense of independence and allows them to make mistakes while learning from them. Consistency is crucial for the young brain, routines allow students the freedom to know what is coming next while also allowing them to feel as though they have the ability to figure something out on their own. A classroom that is set up in such a manner that allows for you to feel as though you belong there is something I strive for. I have always said I want to create an environment that is warm, cozy, and has a homelike feeling especially for those students who may not truthfully get that feeling at home.

All-in-all I believe this philosophy is not only attainable but has the ability to be a very successful program if put into place properly and with the proper tools and guidance from fellow colleagues and the cooperation of students. Allowing your students to be involved in the opinion process of what works and what does not work is the only way you as an educator will truthfully know if what you are doing for them will benefit their learning or set them back. Asking for whether or not your students liked an activity or the book you read that day is a very important way of making them feel like they are actively involved in their own educational decision making process.

References

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