

Lesson 6 Objectives

Specifically, this lesson guides you through these essential elements of success:

- Managing the classroom proactively
- Keeping students engaged
- Establishing routines
- Correcting discipline problems

Managing the Classroom Proactively

The teacher's ultimate goal is for students to learn how to manage their own behavior in a way that enhances everyone's opportunity to learn. In addition, classroom management improves when the classroom teacher:

- is organized and prepared;
- is able to maintain group attention effectively;
- gives clear directions;
- provides meaningful instruction;
- assigns appropriate work;
- uses effective assessment methods; and
- engages students actively in the learning process.

The examples that follow provide specific management strategies for elementary, middle, and secondary classrooms. Use the ideas and forms to establish your own successful system.

Keeping Students Engaged

When students are actively involved, learning is enhanced and classroom management is more effective. The following suggestions provide easy ways to keep students involved.

Question-and-Response Techniques

Question-and-response techniques help students keep their minds engaged and actively involved in the lesson.

- Ask a question first, and then call on a student to answer.
- Give "wait time" to allow students to process their thinking.

Mentor's Tip for Success

Connect with a different student every day so that you know students' lives inside and outside the classroom.

Notes & Ideas

- Ask follow-up questions, such as “Can you tell me more?”
“Give us an example,” and “Why?”
- Ask clarifying questions, such as “Can you tell us how you arrived at your answer?”
- Have students develop their own questions.
- Have students give a summary of what has been learned in a lesson.
- Have strategies for every student to participate simultaneously.
For instance:
 - Thumbs up/down
 - Yes/no cards
 - Individual dry-erase boards

Think-Pair-Share

The think-pair-share strategy, like its name, has three parts. First, give students something to think about individually. Then, allow them to share their thinking with a neighbor. Last, have a few students share with the whole class.

Variety: Mixing It Up

Using a variety of new approaches and activities motivates and interests students. Some examples of what you might add to the mix include:

- providing variety in individual, partner, and group activities;
- using manipulatives;
- using alternative learning activities, such as plays, presentations, and games; and
- having groups of students teach sections from a chapter or text after researching and designing their presentations.

Establishing Routines

All classrooms have routine procedures and tasks performed on a daily basis. Well-developed routines serve as management tools, save time, and ensure a smoothly functioning classroom. Recommended strategies for success include:

- Identify effective routine procedures that are needed.
- Determine when to teach these routine procedures.
- Analyze each procedure and plan how it will be taught.

Experienced educators and education researchers suggest that the establishment of routines should begin on the first day and continue to be