

When I become an educator, I would like to teach in a rural area, in a small town public school. I intend to teach second grade, so my classroom management plan will be focused around a second grade classroom, although it is definitely adaptable to any elementary level classroom. While creating this plan, I took into account the type of children that I will find in this rural-community school and the many learning styles I will encounter in my classroom alone.

Physical Environment

The physical environment of any room is what people notice first, but in a classroom, the physical environment also sets the tone and promotes learning. When discussing physical environment within the classroom, there are many aspects to consider. The first aspect I will discuss is the room arrangement itself. The room will be divided into sections, surrounding a center area with tables and chairs. The tables and chair will be set in groups, four to six students at each table group, depending on the size of my class. The students will be rotated, or “mixed up” every three weeks or so to provide variation in the classroom and to prevent boredom and distraction. My desk will be near the entry way of the classroom, this way I will be aware of anyone entering or exiting the classroom and I will also be easily approachable by other teachers, colleagues, and parents.

Each section surrounding the tables will be set up in its own unique way. The first section will be the literacy center/library. This section will only be set up for reading to oneself, to another person, or for listening to books on tape. Here students will be provided

with three shelving units of books of various levels and topics. The books will be in labeled bins according to their level. I will have a soft carpet, as well as, pillows and bean bags to make the reading more enjoyable and comfortable for the students. The second section will be the carpet area. The carpet area will face either a Smart board or a white board and easel, depending on my budget. Here I will lead whole class discussions and the morning message. In this area, there will be a linear calendar, the alphabet, a number chart, and the student's birthdays (arranged by month) all at eye level for the children to see. Also, in this area, there will be "Free-time" worksheets for the students to work on during their free time in the morning. The last section I will have will be the math section. Here there will be blocks, a small table, and other mathematical materials, such as paper, practice worksheets, pencils, and manipulatives that the children can use to practice their mathematical concepts throughout the day.

Another aspect of the physical environment is the lighting in the classroom. To make my classroom as natural as possible, I will take great advantage of the windows, to allow a lot of natural light to flow in throughout the day. Instead of using the harsh overhead lighting most schools have, I will bring in many small lamps with lamp shades to utilize a more natural, softer light within the classroom. If I am allowed, I will paint the room a light blue, which is a calming, relaxing color that promotes learning. I will also take into account the temperature within my room. I will attempt to keep the classroom temperature at about 69-71 degrees, because the children will have trouble focusing if the temperature within the room is too hot or too cold.

To make the room more personal and inviting, I will display the children's work on bulletin boards around the room and will hang art projects from the ceiling. This will show the students that I am proud of their work and will in turn make them proud of their work. This will also promote positive attitudes and will heighten their self-concepts.

Psychological Environment

My classroom will be a place where all students feel welcomed, valued, appreciated, and safe, both emotionally and physically. I will create an atmosphere where children of all cultures and backgrounds are welcome. I will invite parents and other community members to visit our room and share more about their culture. With this, I will be giving new knowledge to my students, therefore creating respect for other cultures and people of other backgrounds. I will involve parents and the community to provide support for the students, which in turn provides a better atmosphere for learning, and therefore the students will learn more. With this extra support from those outside of the school, as well as support from within the classroom, students will take pride in their individuality and skills, and will know how to respect and appreciate others.

My classroom will also be a place where students will be able to display their emotions comfortably and openly. We will discuss what it's like to feel angry, sad, excited, disappointed, etc and will discuss ways in which to display those feelings and how to deal with them individually. As second graders, the students will still be working on self-regulation and the appropriateness of displaying emotions. I want all of my students to be able to be open and expressive.

When handling conflicts or disputes, we will discuss the importance of conflict resolution and using “I statements” to discuss the problem together and to reach a common ground or resolution. I want all students to feel respected and safe in the classroom and will model these characteristics to my students, and will expect the same of each and every student on a daily basis. The main goal of my classroom will be the respect and honesty with and for all students and teachers. If students learn early on the importance of being honest and respectful to one another and to teachers, they will be more willing to act this way later in life and the classroom will be a much more positive place.

Daily Classroom Procedure

In a classroom, having a concrete and consistent daily schedule is really important, especially for younger students. Being organized and consistent provides students with the opportunity to plan for what the day will bring; they will be less stressed because they are aware of what will be happening in the classroom. I will create a bulletin board that displays the everyday schedule clearly and in a way that is easily understandable by second graders. If there are changes that need to be made, in special circumstances, I will add those to the board in a bright color and explain the changes first thing in the morning to the students. Giving the students an explanation for and announcing the changes will help them better understand how things will go that specific day and will alleviate the stress that often coincides with change.

When planning themes and units, I will take into consideration each student's needs, especially those with learning disabilities and physical disabilities. I will create lessons that

focus on what I have noticed to be the general strengths and weakness of the class as a whole. I will also plan lessons that can be adjusted or adapted at any point during the instruction, because as we have all found out, nothing goes exactly to plan when teaching young children. The exact units, themes, projects, and lessons will depend greatly on the specific needs within my classroom each and every year.

Every morning, I will try to be waiting at the door or in the hallway for the students to arrive. I will greet each student and/or their family members with a smile and a personalized hello. I will learn my student's names quickly, in order to greet them and talk to them in a very personal manner every day. After each student is greeted, they will know to go put their things in their assigned cubby and to turn in any homework in their assigned "homework bin", which will all be arranged alphabetically on a table in the front of the room. After this, the students will have morning "free-time" where they can read books, play with blocks, work on any of the "free-time" papers provided by the teacher, or converse with friends. I feel that allowing play time in the morning as students arrive is important so each child will be able to transition into the school day and will be more relaxed and calm when instruction starts.

Every day, mid-morning, we will have a short snack period. At the beginning of the year, I will send home a letter explaining to parents that we will be having a daily snack and will ask for donations to our classroom "Snack closet". I will also make sure to provide a variety of snacks and will, of course, consider special diets or allergies of the student's in the classroom. I believe that having a snack helps the children focus and gives them time to have a break from their daily learning and assignments. During snack time we will discuss

each child's answer to a daily question that will be written on the board. The daily questions will be of a variety of topics and may or may not be related to a theme, topic, holiday, or season that we are studying. Having a daily question will help the students get to know each other and will help me, as a teacher, get to know my students on a more personal level.

Using the bathroom will be on an "as needed" basis. We will not take all class bathroom breaks and students will be allowed to take a bathroom break whenever necessary, as long as they ask me first. Students will also know that when using the restroom, they need to be quick and will walk quietly to and from the room.

We will end each day by having a class discussion on what we learned. In this time students will be able to ask questions they have on anything that was covered throughout the day, up and coming events, homework assignments, or anything else that may be on their minds. I will also use this time to have one on one conference's with students (one student a day) on how they feel they are doing overall in the classroom. I believe that knowing and interacting with students, both in a group and individual setting, assists me, the teacher, in knowing exactly what my students are learning and will help me assess the areas in which they each need more practice or help.

Classroom rules, procedures, and consequences

Each year, as new students enter my classroom, I will have a discussion based on what I expect from the students, both by the class as a whole and by each student on an individual basis. I will offer explanations as to why these things are important and

necessary in my classroom. Before I go over the rules I would like to see in my room, I will have an open discussion with the class, asking what they think are important rules to have. I will organize these thoughts and my own and make a classroom rules sign to hang at the front of the room for all students to see. We will go over these new rules everyday for the first week of school, so the students remember what is expected of them. Also, once the rules have been established by the class, I will send them home in letter form to the parents. This will give the parents much needed information about what is expected of their child, according to behavior, within the classroom. I really believe it is important for the student's to have a part in issuing classroom rules, this way they are more likely to follow the rules, because they set them for themselves. Good behavior in the classroom results in a happy, outgoing teacher, which in turn results in happy, stress free students. To reward good behavior, I will practice daily positive praise, handing out colorful stickers or ribbons, creating and issuing certificates, and sending good notes home on classroom letterhead. Every week, we will have a student of the week. For student of the week, we will have a board in which the specific student can hang pictures, homework, and other items that will help us learn a little more about them individually. The privilege of being student of the week can and will be removed in the occurrence of bad behavior. Other consequences for bad behavior will include loss of free time privileges in the morning, a private conference with the teacher and at least one other adult (such as the principal), a call home from the teacher, and a conference with the parents, the teacher, and possibly the principal. I will make sure that all of my students know the consequences of bad behavior right away at the beginning of the year.

I want my classroom rules, procedures, and consequences to reflect those set by the whole school and school district. When rules within the classroom reflect those set school wide, the child will know what to expect year to year.

Conclusion

My classroom management plan focuses on my beliefs and ideas of how an ideal classroom should be organized, planned, and handled thus far. I do realize that as I become more involved in other classrooms and have a classroom of my own, these beliefs and ideas are subject to change. Even though that is true, it is still important to have a safe, learning promoting environment that provides a place for children to learn and grow.