

Classroom Management Final Paper

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Classroom management is the heart of the classroom environment. Without it, your classroom will be chaotic, unorganized, and put a lot more stress on the teacher and the students. During this class, I have learned the importance of classroom management for not only the students but the teacher as well. When reflecting on classroom discussions, reading our classroom textbook, *Conscious Discipline* by Dr. Becky Bailey, and listening to Dr. Lamb's lectures I have created an overview of my first three days of classroom instruction and Classroom Management Plan, established a classroom family, my philosophy of classroom management, and found ways to connect with students and family. These resources will be implemented in my future classroom in order to maximize student learning!

Philosophy of Classroom Management

My philosophy of Classroom Management is based upon Love & Logic, Wong, and Conscious Discipline. In my classroom, I believe students learn best when they are engaged in the content being taught. I believe establishing an engaging classroom environment can spark interest and learning within students. I believe in giving my students positive feedback by recognizing specific actions/behavior and praising them for doing it so well. This leads to what is known as the ripple effect which is a great way to manage the students who are off-task without telling them they are. I will establish procedures and routines to keep my classroom managed and give the students responsibility. As a teacher, I will model staying in my upstairs brain and support my students when they are in the emotional and survival state of mind. To stay in the upstairs brain, I will stay calm, collected, and ask myself what my students need from me right now. In order for these strategies to work, my classroom will need consistency, empowerment, energy, and a good classroom environment. Overall, my classroom will be a loving, friendly environment where students can bring their ideas, creativity, and be themselves. We are a family.

My philosophy is based upon Love and Logic, Wong, and Conscious Discipline. The first theory, Love & Logic, includes shared decision-making and control. It uses empathy along with consequences by helping students enhance their self-confidence (Davies, Love and Logic Basics). I will use Love & Logic to help my students be more responsible and gain self-confidence. With Love & Logic, Love & Logic is all about waiting. Waiting for your students to calm down, giving them an opportunity to sit it out and think things over, and having empathy for your students.

In my philosophy, I had mentioned the importance of classroom procedures and what students come to expect when walking into the classroom. This is based on Wong's theory. Wong focuses on establishing routines, procedures, consistency, and having visuals of these expectations in the classroom (Linde). In order to accomplish this in my classroom, I will have routines/procedures for lining up, putting our stuff away, transitions, 'safe place' or reading area in the classroom, etc. In order for these to be successful, we will rehearse and be consistent. Along with this, I will have classroom jobs for students each week which will include line leader, floor inspector, desk checker, etc. This will keep my classroom organized, managed, and a safe environment for my students.

My final theory I included in my classroom Management plan is conscious Discipline which includes social, emotional, cultural, physical, and cognitive learning into the curriculum (2020). The conscious approach is using our social brain and staying 'upstairs' using the approach: Stimulus, Pause, Response (Bailey, 2014). This approach will be used in my classroom with any conflict. My goal is to model this for my students as well to help them learn conflict resolution and the importance of staying in our upstairs brain. As mentioned in my philosophy, it is important to me that my students feel that they belong, are loved, and are cared

for. To do so, I will create a classroom family with my students where we can be ourselves and count on one another. I want my students to address and identify how they are feeling and be able to talk about it with our family.

First 3 Days

The first few days of school are important in order to establish routines and procedures. The first 3 days of school include getting to know your students and creating a welcoming environment for the students. The first week entails rehearsing procedures, creating a classroom contract, and going over expectations for certain times of the day. All of this may seem pointless or unproductive, but it is needed in order to have a well-managed classroom for the teacher and the students. Throughout the first two weeks, I will begin with routines and procedures followed by academics throughout the day.

On day one for classroom management, first, I plan to include a PowerPoint introducing myself to the students with some fun facts about myself. Next, I will go over the classroom agenda/morning meeting and the expectations during this time. We will rehearse a classroom song or chant to go along with our morning meeting. Next, I will go over the lining up procedure and what voice levels should be at this time. I will have the students practice lining up 2-3 times before we move on to the next procedure. Now, I will have the students rehearse the backpack/locker procedure for when the students come in the more and leave at the end of the day. These procedures will be rehearsed at the beginning and end of the day for the first week. Next, I will go over bathroom passes and how to ask to use the restroom during class. I will show the students the hand signals for using the restroom and getting a drink and have them grab the hall pass. Next, I will show the students the areas of the room to use on 'your time' and demonstrate the expectations for this area and the appropriate times to use it. I will go over

classroom jobs and assign the first students their jobs for the week and explain how students will have a new job each week. After lunch, the students will go out to recess where we will again rehearse lining up for going outside and coming into the classroom. Finally, I will go over a few attention getters (One two three eyes on me, or mac and cheese everybody freeze). This will conclude the procedures and routines for the first day of class!

For the first day of academic instruction, I will start with the introduce yourself game during the morning meeting. This will include a beach ball and having the students throw it around and answering questions on the ball! Next, we will start with a quick math game with questions/equations the students will know from last year as a review. After math, the students will go back to their tables to create their 'name tags' for their area at the table. This is great for me to get-to-know their names and for the other students to get to know each other's names. After this, we will do a quick mini math lesson/review. Next, we will do a get to know the teacher BINGO based on the PowerPoint I created for the beginning of class. After lunch we will do phonics/writing/and reading. The students will be given their 'first-day packet' to put into their cubies. At the end of the day, we will have a daily closing song, and if there is enough time, we will do a KAHOOT on the school day (classroom areas/procedures and routines) and on the teacher! This will cover my first day of classroom instruction!

For the next 2 days, see Appendix A for an overview of what I plan to do for classroom management and instruction. The first few days of school involve a lot of planning and rehearsing. These few days can be stressful for the teacher and cause for a lot of extra work. This work is worth it and will pay off later on when the students know and understand the expectations in the classroom. Having your first week planned is extremely important to create a well-organized classroom and a safe environment for the teacher and the students.

Connection to Students and Family

In order to create a warm, welcoming classroom environment, there needs to be a connection between the teacher, student, and the student's family. Having a relationship with the family helps teachers understand student needs and their home environment (Making connections with students at the Beginning of the School Year). Having a relationship with the student helps them know that they are loved and cared for. This helps the student come to you when they have a question and also helps create the classroom family. The connection is important as nobody knows the student better than their family. When you get to know the family, you are also getting to know the student. This also shows the student that you care about their family as well!

In order to start off this connection, I will have an open house night the day or two before school! To start this off I will send out a classroom letter to the families/students a few days before school. Appendix B has an example of what my classroom letter would look like. In this letter I would include a few things about myself for the students and family to know! I will also have a classroom vision. This vision will have our classroom saying "Be a rainbow in someone's cloud" along with the expectation of learning! I will also have the important dates and ways for the family to contact me. This letter will include details about the open house and what to expect! At the open house I plan to talk with each family and students and introduce myself and my plan for the year! I will have a sheet by the door for the family to write down their preferred contact information, along with their email and phone number. The overall goal of this night is to start relationships with each family and student, introduce ourselves to one another and to just have fun, chat, eat some snacks, and get ready for the new school year!

Classroom Family

Most students have loving families at home that take care of them and make them feel loved and special. Some students don't have the best home environment and look for the love and care at school. In my classroom, I will have a saying "Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud" – Maya Angelou. No matter what happens outside of school, we are a family. Not every student is going to come to school happy or some students will have bad days. I want my students to treat their peers as their family and 'be their rainbow'! My classroom will be loving and kind and caring. I want my students to have a 'second family' at school. Creating this family will create a safe positive environment for my students.

In order to create this idea of a classroom family, there will be routines, procedures, and organization put into place the first few days of school. This organization will include the overall setup of my classroom. Appendix C has a detailed snapshot of my dream classroom. I created this setup based on collaboration, communication, flexibility, and creativity. In my classroom, I chose to do tables with flexible seating in a horseshoe shape. This shape allows me to see all my students while walking around during lectures. I also added a table in the middle of the shoe for students to go to work with other classmates, ask questions, and just collaborate with their peers. This creates a welcoming and safe environment for the students. In one corner of my room, I have a quiet reading corner/calm down area. This area is great for students to relax, think things over, and take a break. There will be procedures that go along with space along with expectations when students are using it. The goal of this space is to bring warmth into the classroom and for the students to feel at home. I also included an 'explore area' for my students to explore plants, sand and water, and art! I want my students to create their ideas and to be comfortable trying something new with their classmates. At each end of my classroom, I have two rug areas. This is

great for co-teaching or station work during reading. My overall goal for my classroom is to make it our own! I want to have student artwork, pictures of something meaningful to them on the walls in my classroom. They should feel comfort, safety, love, and a welcoming environment.

What If's

The reality of it all is that we will have all of these plans, strategies, and philosophies, but it's not always going to go the way we planned. There will be bumps in the road that throw all of your plans off. A lesson takes longer than expected, the students didn't understand so you have to redo the lesson the next day in a different way, or you have to rehearse the classroom procedure or routine again because the students forgot over a break! There are always going to be what if's as a teacher, it is important to be able to work on your feet and always have a plan B! Prepare for your what if's and have a backup plan just in case a lesson gets done early, gym class is canceled, or a student's behavior disrupts the classroom. These are all things that are going to happen in the future, and it is important to stay in the upstairs brain, adapt, and always think about what the student needs! The most important thing is to reflect on your day, but don't dwell. I will look over my lessons and strategies and comment what went well and what I will change. As a first-year teacher, it is all about trial and error and always being willing to change a lesson!

An area that will always be a concern is student behavior and making sure to meet all student needs. Using strategies to control student behaviors and not distracting the class when doing so. If a student hollers out in class, I will make sure to stay in my upstairs brain and quietly talk to the student about their behavior. I will explain to them that I understand they are frustrated and don't understand the assignment. I will give them extra time on this assignment

and instruction to help them better understand. I will also remind them of the classroom rules and procedures and how we are not to yell in class and go over better ways we could have handled the decision. Inappropriate behaviors are going to happen in class, and it is something that needs to be addressed instead of ignored! If we spent every day thinking about every 'what if' we wouldn't get any work done! Overall, it is important to have strategies and back up plans as not everything will go perfectly!

Conclusion

Classroom management is essential for a classroom family, a safe environment, and organization. As a first-year teacher, things aren't going to go as planned, and there will be some bumps. That is okay! It is important to reflect on what you can do better and what went well each day. By taking aspects from the theories, I have learned this semester, I will be able to mold a great classroom management philosophy for my future students. My goal is to create a second family with my students and to maximize their learning in the best ways I know how!

References

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- Linde, S. (n.d.). *Take Online Course Earn College Credit*. Research School, degrees & Careers. Retrieved from <https://study.com/academy/lesson/harry-wong-classroom-management-theory-plan.html>
- Making Connections with Students at the Beginning of the School year*. (n.d.). retrieved from <https://www.Kaplanco.com/ii/making-connections-with-students>
- Theoretical and Scientific Basis of Conscious Discipline*. (2020, November 18). Retrieved from <https://consciousdiscipline.com/theoretical-and-scientific-basis-of-conscious-discipline/>

Appendix A

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Include a power point of all these procedures on the first day) • Lining Up Procedure • Backpack and locker Procedure • Bathroom passes • My time and your time (show areas in the room) • Classroom Jobs • Agenda • Recess • Attention Getters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the weekly procedures from day 1 • Handing in HW • Silent reading/group time • Cubbies and folders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review weekly procedures • Morning Meeting and Class song • Class Dojo • Classroom drawers where unfinished work goes
DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce yourself game • Math Game • Name art tag for desk • Math review • Get to know the teacher BINGO • Phonic/writing • Reading • First day Packet • Daily closing song • KAHOOT on the Teacher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning meeting/song • Math Review • Lesson 1 for Math, Reading, Writing and Phonics • Work on art • Classroom pare and share • Classroom Goals and contract • WIN Reading Time • Daily closing song 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning meeting/song • Core subjects and science • Go over class goal and contract • Reading WIN Time • Daily closing Song

FIRST 3 DAY GM PLAN
FIRST 3 DAY —
INSTRUCTIONAL
PROGRAM

Appendix B



WELCOME TO 1ST GRADE!



Hello! My name is Ms. Brekhus!



Get to Know Me!

- I grew up on a farm just outside of Kenmare, North Dakota!
- I attended UMary in Bismarck for 4 years! Go Marauders!
- I love hunting, fishing, skiing, and spending time with my family and friends!
- I have an Australian Shepard named Ellie! (You'll be hearing lots of stories about her!) 😊
- I love reading! My favorite book is 'All The Bright Places'.
- I have a passion for learning and going on new adventures, and I cant wait to start new adventures with all of you !

Our Classroom Vision

"Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud."
-Maya Angelou

- In our classroom everyone learns everyday!
- We hear, model, and have positive actions and behaviors
- We are a safe caring classroom community
- We are encouraging and hard working learners always putting our best efforts forward, even on our 'cloudy days'.



IMPORTANT

- **Registration day is August 3rd.**
- **Open house is August 11th @ 6:00 P.M. (There will be snacks!) Feel free to bring school supplies as well!**
- **Download Class Dojo app (I will explain more at the open house)!**
- **The First day of school is August 12th.**
- **Contact Info:**
 - smb@umary.com
 - 701-777-8989 (office)
 - **If you would like to meet in person please call or email and we will set up a meeting:)**

Can't wait to meet you and you're family!

Appendix C



