

## 20 Classroom Management Strategies and Techniques

- 1. Model ideal behavior:** Demonstrate behavior you want to see by holding mock conversations and interactions with another teacher in front of your students.
- 2. Let students help establish guidelines:** Ask students what they think is and isn't acceptable behavior, encouraging them to suggest rules for the academic year.
- 3. Document rules:** Ensure your guidelines aren't forgotten by writing them down and distributing them as a list for students to keep and reference.
- 4. Avoid punishing the class:** Address isolated behavior issues instead of punishing the entire class, so as to avoid hurting your relationships with on-task students.
- 5. Encourage initiative:** Promote growth mindset by allowing students to work ahead in certain units, delivering brief presentations to reinforce your lesson material.
- 6. Offer praise:** Recognize hard work by openly congratulating students, encouraging ideal behavior and inspiring the class.
- 7. Use non-verbal communication:** Complement words with actions and visual aids to improve content delivery, helping students focus and process lessons.
- 8. Hold parties:** Throw an occasional classroom party to acknowledge students' hard work, motivating them to keep it up.
- 9. Give tangible rewards:** Reward specific students at the end of each lesson, in front of the class, as another motivational and behavior-reinforcement technique.
- 10. Make positive letters and phone calls:** Make positive phone calls and send complimentary letters home, possibly encouraging parents to further involve themselves in their children's learning.
- 11. Build excitement for content:** Start lessons by previewing particularly-exciting parts, hooking student interest from the get-go.
- 12. Offer different types of free study time:** Provide different activities during free study time -- such as group note-taking -- to help students who can't process content in silence.
- 13. Write group contracts:** Help student group work run smoothly by writing contracts that contain clear guidelines, asking each group member to sign a copy.



- 14. Assign open-ended projects:** Encourage students to tackle open-ended projects to allow them to demonstrate knowledge in ways that suit and appeal to them.
- 15. Give only two marks for informal assessments:** Consider avoiding standard marks on informal and formative assessments, simply stating if a student did or didn't meet expectations. If they didn't, give them a task to improve competency.
- 16. Use EdTech that adjusts to each student:** Give students who struggle to process content opportunities to use adaptive learning technology, such as Prodigy.
- 17. Interview students:** Interview students who aren't academically engaged or displaying prosocial behavior to get insights about how to better manage them.
- 18. Address bad behavior quickly:** Don't hesitate when you must address bad behavior, as acting sooner rather than later will ensure that negative feelings don't fester.
- 19. Consider peer teaching:** Use peer teaching activities -- such as paired reading -- if you feel your top performers can help engage and educate disruptive and struggling students.
- 20. Gamify personal learning plans:** Motivate students on personal learning plans by gamifying those plans, through tactics such as awarding XP (experience points) throughout a unit to quantify skill mastery.

