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Essay Assignment#2

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EFFECTIVE CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

“Learning by experience”

John Dewey (1859-1952)

Our most important job as a teacher is perhaps to create the conditions in which learning can take place. As we may be aware, good behavior is the result of good lesson planning. However, as a teacher, we will have to deal with a range of unexpected problems namely with implementation, enforcement and discipline of an institution’s policies. Three problems that might arise are as follows: We might have to implement and enforce a very strict “English Only” policy; deal with frequent tardiness and absences in the classroom; and how help students conduct a lesson presentation. Each problem can be dealt with by making use of the classroom management skills that Jim Scrivener provides and by using reinforcements and punishments.

First of all, in order to implement and enforce a strict ‘English Only” policy, we should create an environment where students can actively enforce an ‘English Only policy in school. When I was a college student back in 1985, I took English speaking class in private institute. (YBM SI-SA LANGUAGE SCH00L) in BUSAN

They said that being immerged in an English speaking environment will give you the opportunity to improve speaking skills. “English Only” policy was their strict rule. If they hear that I speaking English in and outside of class time, they gave me a green ticket and they wrote my name & student number on it and put it in a box. Each green ticket is worth 1point for my language group. Every day they displayed the language group with the MOST green tickets. On Fridays, there will be prize language group with the MOST green tickets that week. The winning students received rewarding for speaking. If they hear that I speaking Korean instead of English, they gave me a yellow ticket. If I got one yellow ticket, I lost of 1point for language group. Three yellow tickets, they gave me penalty & loss of 1 additional point for group.

Another unexpected problem that I might face is frequent tardiness and absences of students in the class. Students are expected to attend all assigned classes each day. If they arrive late at class, are often disruptive to the class. Teachers can implement various policies and techniques to reduce the amount of student’s tardiness.

First, establish clean rules at the beginning of the school year. Regarding the school’s attendance and punctuality policy. Outline a clear plan on the consequences for unexcused absences and late arrivals.

Second, be consistent with the rules. Use a daily or weekly tardiness report card, and reward card. Students who are obviously making efforts to reduce their tardiness, Give him reward card. Students who are habitually late in class, give him a detention for each tardy. If a student is tardy for class, or for school, that student get a tardy slip, the slip itself is an indication of a punishment. It’ll go on his record if he gets too many tardy slips. He will receive a punishment might include a set detention such as 15 minutes after school. However, there can also be rewards for students who do not have tardy slips on their record. Reward might include a fieldtrip for students, or be free from cleaning classroom. (MOST students hate cleaning classroom)

The third problem how I will help students prepare lesson presentation is that I should prepare many things to provide the tools and techniques that can be used by students. As students are seriously affected by the teachers, have to give instructions exactly to their students by using demonstrations. Being an education major, I had to fulfill my student teaching requirement to get a license to teach in Korea. The month-long experience took place during the first semester of my senior year in college, typically in the month of April or May. (Back in 1989) I had to complete my student teaching requirement in DUKWON middle school in BUSAN. The first week I had a chance to get acquainted with students. The second week required me to learn the ropes by observing class sessions. I finally started teaching in class from the third week. In my first day of teaching, some students didn’t pay attention to me and had hard time understanding my teaching. Typical teaching method was not intriguing enough!

I put all my energy and efforts to draw student’s attention but to no avail. One student I still remember is MEONG JIN. He was tardy and absent frequently for class many times. He was self-centered, aggressive, and not open-minded. I used icebreaker activity to make students involved & fun in class. That’s quite simple 20questions. Anyone got right answers, rewards were followed. Pictures, many wall charts were used to get them relaxed, motivated. At first, they were reluctant to follow this way. Because, my teaching method quite different from those of other teachers. I picked MEONG JIN as a class leader to have him get a sense of responsibility. Every student thought that he was a loser& not a right person to be a class leader. But, as time went by, he carried out all his duties and tried to set a good example as a leader. He deserved to be a leader in the end. All my efforts and endeavors paid off! This hands-on experience made me think twice how difficult it is to become a good teacher.

My conclusion is that teachers are faced with several unexpected problems in the field of education. Teachers should be fully equipped with good classroom management& knowledge. But the most important thing is respect students as they are. A good teacher-student relationship is based on reciprocal respect.