Classroom Management Assignment

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For effective lessons, it is very important to have a well-balanced relationship between proper rules, positive rewards and punishments.

It is critical for teachers to have his/her own educational philosophy and coherent teaching method.

If directions of rewards and punishments keep changing depending on a teacher’s mood, students may feel very confused, and effective learning environment is disturbed as well.

As a teacher, I am going to deal with a range of unexpected problems: namely with implementation, enforcement and discipline of an institution’s policies.

I would specifically like to address three cases to discuss how positive rewards and punishments work in unexpected situations.

The first situation is that the school or institution has a strict policy to use English only in class, and teachers are obliged to implement and enforce this rule.
This case can be easily failed since it is hard to use second language only, and teachers cannot observe each student all the time.
When I was in the middle school, my English teacher required students to use English only in the classroom once in a week. If students broke the policy, we were punished by facing towards the wall for a minute. With these experiences, my confidence in English became diminished. Also, I did not want to speak up during the class because of using English.
In this kind of situation, it is important for a teacher to explain to students the purpose of English-only environment.
For example, a teacher may explain “English Only Policy" is helpful for students to become more familiar to English. In addition to that, the policy has positive effect on students to make them think active about different situations in English.
Self-evaluation can be also a good way to support this method. My suggestion of self-evaluation is this: five minutes before the class ends, students write a note to evaluate themselves if they have kept English-only policy or not.
Students earn points if they get a good evaluation. If not, writing assignments are given to translate the words they have spoken in their first language into English.
Self-evaluating seems more effective than the one from a teacher which can be more biased and one sided.

The second situation is a classroom setting with frequent tardiness and absences.
It’s not easy to correct one's behaviors. Especially, tardiness and absence need a lot of attention and effort to restrict them. To do that, strong rewards and strict punishments may be needed.

For instance, to a student with good attendance, a prize is given. However, students who go over tardiness and absence three or more times, as a punishment, the teacher notifies his/her parents about it.
This is the most general and effective way to reward/punish about one's behavior.
Giving compliment or suasiveness only seems not strong enough to make student feel tension as much as needed. In order to make changes in behavior, it is necessary to use a stronger way of rewards and punishments.

The last situation is how a teacher helped students to prepare for their lesson presentations.
There is an old expression; "Give a man a fish, feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, feed him for a lifetime."
Likewise, a teacher's role is to help students draw their ability out instead of telling an answer directly. That is ‘Eliciting’.
For example, if there is a question asking the meaning of "a piece of cake," a teacher may give students multiple clues using various types of materials such as visual, audio, and etc.

It is my goal to be a teacher who is unbiased and offers an appropriate lesson to students in each given situation.
I want to motivate my student to study hard by positive rewards and make an effective lesson by appropriate punishments.
It is important to know how to deal with student wisely as much as passing knowledge to them.
Through effective classroom management, I would like to become a respectful teacher.