The Good Tips to Manage a Class Effectively

*“'In an effective classroom students should not only know what they are doing, they should also know why and how”*

**Harry Wong**

Children are unique respectively. One is active but another is shy. Some are obedient to the class rules but others aren’t. As teachers, we should manage the class where the various kinds of children are. Even though each student’s personality and tendency should be respected, it is teachers’ duty to mediate their differences since all students need to learn how to cooperate with others in a class. There are several cases for class management especially in EFL classes.

In EFL classes, the English-Only Policy is often enforced to make children speak English. However, children easily break this rule. It may be because they are young or they don’t know enough English to express themselves. I think that making classroom rules with children is the good way to keep this rule. First, we should tell them why speaking English only is important, for example, saying that the more we try to speak English, the faster we can familiar with it. Also we need to let them know the consequences for breaking the rule. If children speak Korean in class or on a break, teachers might give them 3 times warning but after that, we should have time to talk with the children after classes. For such rules are especially effective when children have helped plan them, let students make posters like ‘Only Speak English or we have to stay after classes’ and hang them up in the classroom. When students speak Korean, the teacher can ask, “Who can tell me what we are supposed to do now?” Someone will check the poster and remind the class what they are supposed to do.

When it comes to tardiness, it should be stricter because late students not only miss the important lessons, but also disrupt the whole class. To define the tardiness clearly, the students who are consistently late for classes should get teachers’ disciplinary action. We can put their lateness into their grades, for instance, lateness 3 times equals one absent. However, we have to use this rule to improve the students’ behavior, not make them perfect. When we spend all our time and energy focusing on their misbehavior, the possibility for improving their behaviors will soon disappear. On the other hand, if you expect and encourage them to be on time, it won’t be long before the negative disappears.

Lastly, children’s fighting in a classroom is also one of the big issues. Children are immature and easy to tease others. Or very young children refuse to give other’s toy back, and they fight. In this case, cooling-off time (or positive time out) can be solution. Like English-only policy, teachers should explain the value of a cooling-off period and the importance of waiting until everyone feels better before trying to solve conflicts. When you send the children to time out area, let them return to their seats whenever they have finished their 5 minutes and they should be ready to be respectful.

Even though they are children, they also deserve respect as human beings. As a famous educator, Harry K. Wong mentioned, children should know why and how they need to follow the rules. Basically teachers should respect children and use a combination of disciplinary actions and positive reinforcement in order to manage a classroom effectively.