

# CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

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How do I create a good classroom tone?




Now, which philosophy of teaching should I follow?




I've been through Teacher Training, but I haven't got all the answers yet.




If you've got a few you're doing well.




How should I react to children when they are disruptive?




I'm not really sure what to do with children who aren't making academic progress.




I don't seem to be able to get onside with the class without losing control.




I'm never quite sure what standards of behaviour to expect or insist on with these children.



Is there one right way to teach, or are different ways O. K.?



Well, let's try and break effective classroom teaching down into its components.




What do I do to be an effective teacher?


# WHAT DOES GOOD CLASSROOM TEACHING INVOLVE?

It is likely to involve most of the following:


- 1) A clear philosophy of teaching  
You've got to have a clear idea of what you are trying to achieve.
- 2) Providing an interesting and stimulating classroom
- 3) Developing a positive relationship with your class
- 4) An orderly classroom with clear behaviour guidelines and routines
- 5) Organization and planning
- 6) Effective learning takes place for every child
- 7) Fun




So, I only need to take note of those 7 points to be a great teacher?



... Um ... well...  
... er ...




I've been studying children and how they learn for 40 years, and still don't really understand.




Apart from understanding children and how they learn, (an almost impossible task), no one thing in teaching is too difficult.

Even if we don't fully understand children and how they learn (i.e. what happens in their brain), we can still effectively teach them.




Let's look at each of the above aspects of effective teaching in more detail.




No, its more the art of being good at 100 different things and knowing when and how to use each of these skills for each of the 34 children in my class.


# A CLEAR PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING



*I'll bet this is going to be boring. Let's skip this part and get onto the practical stuff.*



*I'll leave philosophy to Socrates and Plato.*



*Regardless of whether its boring or not, a lot of what you think and do as a teacher, your attitudes, and how you treat children will be determined by your philosophy.*


It's important for a teacher to have thought carefully about children, education, and how they intend to go about teaching. I don't believe there is only one right approach to teaching but you will be a better teacher if you have developed clear ideas about education, and confidently put what you believe into practice.

What do you believe about the teaching process?  
What do you believe about children and how they learn?  
What do you think the purpose of education is?  
What do you think the role of the teacher is?


## WARNING

Be flexible and don't hold your views rigidly as new ideas, acquaintances, or experience may cause you to modify your views.

- Do you only need to provide learning opportunities in a class or do you have to directly teach for learning to occur?
- Do all children basically learn the same way or do children have differing learning styles?
- If you are positive and friendly to children will they treat you with respect or will some children need to be firmly managed using a variety of management skills?
- Is a teacher's primary function to teach academic subjects or is a child's all - round development a teacher's prime responsibility?
- Should all special needs children be educated in regular classes or are special needs children often better catered for in segregated classes?
- Do children learn best with a formal, very directed programme or is it important for children to be allowed more independence and freedom to follow their own interests?
- Should education socialize children to fit in with the norms of society or should children be encouraged to develop and follow their own ideas and values?
- Are all children basically similar and therefore should be treated the same or are all children unique and therefore often need to be treated in an individual way?



*There are some pretty tricky questions there.*



*I know. Philosophers have spent years thinking about some of these issues and ended up with different answers.*

*The important thing is to have considered what experienced educators have said on these issues, thought through them yourself, and then developed your own philosophy of teaching*

# THE AUTHOR'S PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING

Education is concerned with the development of the whole person. It involves the student acquiring knowledge and skills, and values in the areas of intellectual, emotional, social and physical development.

Education is the right of every child and the responsibility of both society and parents. A major way society fulfils this obligation is through providing schools and delegating the responsibility for children's education to class teachers.

All children can successfully learn, but each child is unique and a different amalgum of personality, experiences, learning, and needs, from every other child. It is the teacher's responsibility to ensure that each child is carefully assessed, and then provided with an appropriate educational programme that builds on previous learning and addresses areas of learning deficits. Fortunately this is often fairly similar for a large proportion of children in the class.

A teacher must ensure that effective learning is occurring for all children. This can only be done through regular monitoring and evaluation of progress. To be as effective as possible for every child, the teacher is likely to have to use a variety of teaching strategies and present material to be learned in various ways.

A teacher needs to achieve a balance between the requirements of the curriculum and the needs of the child if there is a discrepancy between the two. Also, the teacher needs to ensure that they are providing a rich and balanced programme covering physical and social development as well as academic.

The classroom is a social situation. The teacher and students enter this situation with certain personalities, ideas, behaviour traits, attitudes, values and expectations which might be different.

A positive class tone is an important aspect of successful class teaching, and it is this class tone which probably conveys many subtle messages to children, such as attitude to learning, teacher expectations, respect for others, values, and so on. A positive class tone can be fostered by showing you are genuinely interested in and concerned about children, being friendly and giving lots of positive feedback to children, ensuring that there are clear routines and behaviour expectations for children, ensuring that educational programmes are appropriate and that each child achieves success, being well - organized and prepared, and providing fun activities.

For an harmonious atmosphere, successful teaching, and satisfying teacher - pupil relationships through the course of a whole year, it is likely that both teachers and pupils will have to adapt or change to some extent i.e. both must give and take.

In summary, a teacher can foster a happy, harmonious learning situation where successful learning occurs for each child by being positive, taking children seriously, providing clear guidelines, being firm, consistent, fair, taking into account individual needs, and having an interesting, well organized programme.

# CREATING AN INTERESTING AND STIMULATING CLASSROOM

The attractiveness or otherwise of the classroom gives a message to students, parents and other teachers the moment they walk in.

It may give the following messages:

“Wow! This teacher obviously puts a lot of effort into her teaching”.

“This an interesting room to visit”.

“There are going to be great things happening in this room this year”.

“Education is still dull and boring like when I went to school”.

“This teacher doesn’t care much about providing an attractive learning environment”.

Here are some issues to consider when setting up your classroom.

## Should I Paint a wall or cover an area with coloured card before I start?



*I thought we were supposed to encourage kids to care for their environment. How about setting an example by transforming this dull classroom environment with a coat of paint... Well, how about supplying some paint ... or some hessian to cover a wall? A few sheets of coloured card perhaps? ... Well, would asking for a box of drawing pins be too extravagant?*

## How are you going to arrange the children’s desks and other furniture?

Do some arrangements use less space? Is the arrangement functional in terms of children moving into, out of and around the room? Can all children see the board easily?

*I’m going to make a list of what areas I want in the room and then decide where to put the furniture.*

*Let’s see:*

- a mat area where all children can sit for stories
- a book corner with a few cushions
- a nature/science/interest table
- somewhere to set out paints and paper
- one or more computers

