

Instructional Classroom Management

Module Eight: Classroom Management Strategies

HOW TO BEGIN:

Use time at the beginning of this session to review what you learned from your last meeting and how you practiced it in your classroom.

Overview:

Previous Modules have discussed effective instructional practices, building relationships, and the instructional environment. In this Module the focus shifts to classroom management and discusses strategies for preventing problem behaviors within the classroom setting. All effective classroom teachers use some sort of management procedures to enhance student success.

Big Ideas:

1. Use the Least Amount Necessary:

The degree to which a classroom can be successful with management at one end or other of this depends on the students and the demands of the curriculum. As a general rule, we want to use the least amount of management necessary to maintain student success.

2. Class-wide Strategies:

Point Systems. Point systems are generally the most basic form of management system. These simply involve the awarding of points for students' demonstration of pre-determined behaviors. These points should be redeemable for privileges within the classroom - things like computer time, playing educational games, or moving to a different activity.

3. Strategies for Compliance:

- **Group Contingencies:** in the group contingency everyone must individually perform in order for the entire group to be reinforced.
- **Choice:** For many of these students, the feeling or even illusion of having some choice is sufficient to facilitate compliance
- **Behavior Momentum:** The idea of behavior momentum is that low probability requests are more likely to be successful if they have been preceded by simple requests that have resulted in praise - thus building momentum with a student's behavior.

Activity 1:

- a. Consider the degree to which your classroom makes use of any system of points to manage behavior.
- b. If you do - how is it working for you? If you don't, discuss why point systems may or may not be effective with your particular students.

Activity 2:

- a. How do you typically promote compliance in your classroom? Do you use any of these strategies?
- b. Discuss how these strategies need to be altered or tweaked to be effective with your students.

Task:

Between now and your next monthly meeting try using at least one of the strategies described in this module. Be prepared to describe your experiences with this at the start of the next meeting.

Further information and additional videos on Classroom Management Strategies can be found at the following locations:

CIBRS.com (videos)

KSDETASN.org (go to resources section and type in "Classroom Management Strategies")

Teachingchannel.org (Search for "Classroom Management Strategies")