

Keys to Managing a Sunday School Classroom

Know Yourself:

- Know what your expectations for student behavior are and state them clearly and positively to your students.
- Keep your expectations simple, few and specific. (For example: In this place, everyone gets a turn. In this place, we listen when others are talking. In this place, we use kind words.)

Know Your Students:

- Greet your students by name and let them know that they are an important part of your class.
- Watch students and praise them for behaviors you want to see. (Thank you for sharing the crayons so well)
- Help parents share information about their children with you. (When Michael does this at home/school, what do you find works best?)
- Get to know what each child likes so that you can direct each child toward activities that engage them. Know your resources for distraction/diversion.
- Know what might trigger misbehavior: loud noises, unclear instructions, having to share, transitions and plan for these times.

Know your Lesson:

- Entering your classroom well prepared will go a long way toward creating a smooth morning for you and your students. Have all your materials prepared and ready to go.
- Keep a regular routine. This helps children know what to expect and take ownership for their own behavior.
- Establish a system of cues (lights out means we will stop this activity in 2 minutes...)
- Create opportunities for children to assist you.

Know your Strategies and Resources:

- If a child is misbehaving try
 - using positive words to redirect behavior.
 - moving close the child.
 - asking the child to help you with something, giving the child a job.
 - having the shepherd spend some one on one time with the child.
 - talking with the parent
- If children are misbehaving try:
 - playing a game
 - changing your activity
- If behavior persists or is extreme
 - remove the child from the classroom and contact Sunday School staff.