

Classroom Management

The classroom functions as a miniature society with its own cultural norms, rules of behavior, and power structures. As a teacher, you face issues related to character whenever students make a decision to learn or not to learn, to act in anger or to exercise self-control, to disrupt the class or to stay focused. All are matters of both skills and character.

Classroom management and student discipline are areas where your classroom norms and interpersonal skills are most obviously consequential for determining how well the school works to accomplish its mission. According to Evertson and Weinstein, classroom management has two distinct purposes: *“It not only seeks to establish and sustain an orderly environment so students can engage in meaningful academic learning, it also aims to enhance student social and moral growth.”* Putting this into practice means that effective classroom managers:

- develop caring, supportive relationships with and among students
- organize and implement instruction in ways that optimize students’ access to learning
- use group management methods that encourage student engagement with academic tasks
- promote the development of student social skills and self-regulation
- use appropriate interventions to assist students who have behavior problems

By using the Six Pillars of Character, you have the foundation for character-based discipline.

- Be intentional in making sure you embed the values of trustworthiness respect, responsibility fairness, caring, and citizenship into your classroom rules and procedures.
- Ensure that students recognize inappropriate behaviors when they see them. Establish firm limits to unacceptable behavior.
- Reach consensus about expectations that can be conveyed to students.
- Be a positive adult model who is caring, firm, consistent, and fair.

For a classroom teacher, there are ten techniques and strategies to ensure effective classroom management;

1. Provide a productive learning environment that promotes a positive classroom atmosphere.
2. Encourage on-task student behavior.
3. Promote character-based discipline.
4. Establish rules, routines, and expectations.
5. Craft a suitable discipline plan.
6. Build relationships by connecting with students.
7. Manage consequences and behaviors.
8. Use positive reinforcements.
9. Create classroom community.
10. Maintain successful classroom management.