



## 20 Classroom Management Strategies and Techniques

Managing a classroom of at least 20 students with a range of unique social and academic skills is a complex challenge. And, unfortunately, research indicates that teachers report a severe lack of professional development support to improve classroom management.

So what can educators do to build respectful communication, focus and motivation in the classroom? Get inspired by these 20 strategies that will help boost academic engagement, enhance prosocial student behavior and establish an orderly environment!



- 1 Model ideal behavior**  
Demonstrate behavior you want to see by holding mock conversations and interactions with another teacher in front of your students.
- 2 Let students help establish guidelines**  
Ask students what they think is and isn't acceptable behavior and encourage them to suggest rules for the academic year.
- 3 Document rules**  
Ensure your guidelines aren't forgotten by writing them down and distributing them as a list for students to keep and reference.
- 4 Avoid punishing the class**  
Address isolated behavior issues individually instead of punishing the entire class, so as to avoid hurting your relationships with on-task students.
- 5 Encourage initiative**  
Promote growth mindset by allowing students to work ahead in certain units, delivering brief presentations to reinforce your lesson material.
- 6 Offer praise**  
Recognize hard work by openly congratulating students, encouraging ideal behavior and motivating the class.
- 7 Use non-verbal communication**  
Combine verbal communication with actions and visual aids to enhance content delivery, helping students focus and process lessons.
- 8 Hold parties**  
Throw an occasional classroom party to acknowledge students' hard work, motivating them to keep it up.
- 9 Give tangible rewards**  
Reward individual students at the end of lessons as a motivational and behavior-reinforcement technique.
- 10 Make positive letters and phone calls**  
Make positive phone calls and send complimentary letters home, potentially encouraging parents to further involve themselves in their children's learning.

- 11 Consider peer teaching**  
Use peer teaching activities - such as paired reading - if you feel your top performers can help engage and educate disruptive and struggling students.
- 12 Offer different types of free study time**  
Provide different activities during free study time - such as group note-taking - to help students who can't process content in silence.
- 13 Write group contracts**  
Help student group work run smoothly by writing contracts that contain clear guidelines, asking each group member to sign a copy.
- 14 Assign open-ended projects**  
Encourage students to tackle open-ended projects to allow them to demonstrate knowledge in ways that suit and appeal to them.
- 15 Build excitement for content**  
Preview particularly-exciting parts of your lesson to hook student interest at the beginning of a lesson.
- 16 Use EdTech that adjusts to each student**  
Give students who struggle to process content opportunities to use adaptive learning technology, such as Prodigy.
- 17 Interview students**  
Interview students who are socially or academically disengaged to get insights to learn how to better manage them.
- 18 Address bad behavior quickly**  
Don't hesitate when you must address bad behavior, as acting sooner rather than later will ensure that negative feelings don't fester.
- 19 Give only two marks for informal assessments**  
Experiment with avoiding standard marks on informal and formative assessments, simply stating if a student did or didn't meet expectations. If they didn't, give them a task to improve competency.
- 20 Gamify personal learning plans**  
Motivate students on personal learning plans by gamifying those plans, through tactics such as awarding XP (experience points) throughout a unit to quantify skill mastery.

Now try them yourself!

Classroom management isn't just about getting your students to listen. It's about working proactively with them to stop disruptive behavior and build student participation and cooperation. These class-wide and one-on-one approaches to classroom management largely work across subjects and grade levels. Use the ones that best appeal to your situation and teaching style and look forward to better teacher-to-student and student-to-student interactions!