

Discipline and Classroom/Club Management

Use the following tips to help children enjoy a classroom/club that runs smoothly and facilitates learning!

- Call children by name; greet them warmly when they arrive.
- Give one direction at a time. Then, have at least two children repeat the directions for reinforcement purposes, e.g. "Who can tell me what we're getting ready to do?"
- Post the classroom/club - rules/guidelines in a visible place in the room:
 - The 3 R's- Respect Yourself; Respect Others; Respect Property (RULES/GUIDELINES)
 - Take time at the beginning of each club meeting to define and review.
- Provide lots of encouragement. Catch them following the rules/guidelines!
 - Encouragement uses specific statements, e.g. "You sat still through the entire lesson!"
 - Encouragement is descriptive, e.g. "I noticed that you were waiting for your turn!"
(The goal is to allow the student to do the judging.)
 - Encouragement emphasizes and values effort, e.g. "I can tell you've worked hard on finishing your ... "
Encouragement emphasizes the feelings of the child, e.g. "I bet it feels great to say that verse without looking at the words."
 - Encouragement avoids manipulation, since the child does most of the judging.
 - Encouragement enhances a child's self-esteem.
- Really listen to children when they talk to you. Pay attention to the spoken and the unspoken.
(Body language speaks volumes.)
- If a child misbehaves, talk with them individually and away from the entire group.
 - Be friendly, respectful, and firm.
 - If you use anger in dealing with a child, they will respond in anger. The child focuses on your anger and not on the problem.
 - Death and life are in the power of the tongue!

- 5 COUNT RULE

5 Count is used when the leader wants everyone's attention. Begin counting aloud from one to five, holding each finger high in the air as you count; By the time the count is at five, all children should be waiting quietly. All other leaders should raise one hand and remain quiet as the leader counts. (Do not count past five; if you count to five and children are not at attention- continue to hold hand in the air and wait patiently.)

- 3 COUNT AWANA RULE

One Count is an oral warning.

One Count looks like: child is not following your directions, talking out- of- turn, wandering around room, horse- playing instead of following your directions or working on an activity you have planned, calling other's names, etc. Several strategies: call the child's name, wink at the child to let them know you are aware of their undesired behavior; move closer to the child (proximity); gently place your hand on the child's shoulder; use the statements on the back of this sheet "Turn Your Words into Gold" to redirect behavior.

Two Count is the second time you speak to a child concerning undesired behavior that violates the 3 R's.

Two Count looks like: deliberate disobedience after you have given clear specific directions

*At this time, please remove child from the group while respectfully stating to the child, " You may join the group when you stop hitting; you may join the group when you can follow my directions." When removing a child from the group, remember to always keep him/her in your line of vision.

Three Count is the third time you speak to a child concerning undesired behavior and/or if a child hits another child, uses foul language/swearing, disrespectful to leader, etc. (These behaviors are an automatic three count and result in your escorting child to Commander/Children's Director/ Pastor.)

"Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel..."
Psalm 73:23- 24