

Classroom Management Ideas for Elementary Music

When it comes to classroom management, these are simple ideas that will work for any part of your music teaching time. Of course this doesn't cover every classroom management strategy, but is definitely enough to get you started and includes ideas you can begin implementing today.

With classroom management, one of the main things I want you to realize is a lot of it is about forming relationships with your students. As the music teacher, this is so hard, but it is possible. Find time throughout the day to get to know them outside of the music room: in the lunchroom, in the car rider line, while standing in the hallway for example.

Another part of classroom management is consistency. No matter what classroom management strategy you choose, know that staying consistent and following through with what you say goes so far. Also, you will have hard days. There will be days that you feel like nothing you're trying is working. Please know that this is normal and that you will find the right thing that works for you and your students.

Instruments:

- "You play before I say, I'll take your instrument away."
- They go on the floor in front of the child and they put their hands in their lap.
- Rotate kids on instrument parts so they can take turns.

Dance:

- Everybody find a partner for a folk dance. When there are an odd number of students, have the imaginary musician named "Musico" be their partner
- It's full participation required and yes boys, it is ok to touch a girls hands
- Everyone is on a team and encourage your peers

Centers:

- Students are assigned to a group of 4-5 people
- Each time they do centers, they will do 2 of them and the next time you do centers they will start at the one they left off.
- Center ideas include: boomwhackers, writing music, computer games, keyboards, music games, xylophones, and recorder

Seating:

- Students sit in rows and place your strongest singers next to the weakest ones
- Put the wiggliest kids in the back row
- Use sit spots or free carpet samples from a hardware store for students to sit on
- Use chairs for large mallet instrument and drums and the floor for everything else

Other ideas:

- To make a circle, everyone holds hands then sits down
- Have class sticker charts on the wall and the classes earn up to 3 stickers per class period. At the end of the 9 weeks, the class with the most stickers gets a reward or music game of their choice.
- To cut down on talking and distractions, keep the class time moving along.