



Question:

What do I need to know about classroom rules?

Andie's Answer:

Developing rules and consequences for your classroom is one of the most important things you will do to prepare for the beginning of a new school year. Classroom rules should be written in positive terms, and your classroom should have no more than 5 rules. (Our students cannot remember more than 5 rules—neither can we.) Develop 3 to 5 rules for your classroom based on the behaviors you most value in students.

Here is an example of a set of classroom rules that came from a winning football coach.

Be where you are supposed to be,
when you are supposed to be there,
doing what you are supposed to do.

These rules are general in nature and will require teaching and practicing to be sure that all students understand the expectations. Here are some additional tips for creating and implementing classroom rules.

- Practice the rules with your students using examples and non examples of the behaviors.
- Explain the consequences for your students making the decision not to follow the rule.
- Teach classroom rules and consequences beginning on the first day of school.
- Post the rules and consequences in the classroom on a large poster. You and your students can always refer to the poster when needed.