



Tips for Correcting Problem Behaviors

Much of discipline is discipleship with lots of loving patience. Every problem is in reality an opportunity to help students see where they must become more like Christ and how to do so. Part of a teacher's role in the classroom is to provide an environment where students can safely test, question, and return when they need to be loved and filled up again.

No matter how much work you do to prevent discipline problems, there will be challenges that require your appropriate and timely response. Here are some dos and don'ts for discipling students. Adapt them depending on the age and ability of your students.

- Do smile and take a deep breath.
- Don't lose your temper, yell, scream, or belittle the student.
- Do speak directly to the student.
- Don't embarrass him or her in front of his or her peers.
- Do have the student verbalize what the inappropriate behavior was.
- Don't ask why he or she did it.
- Do help the student understand why the behavior was inappropriate.
- Don't threaten consequences that you are unwilling to carry out.
- Do maintain a sense of humor.
- Don't think that it's the end of the world.
- Do talk with the student after you discipline him or her to make sure that the student knows you still care about him or her.
- Don't be inconsistent in applying the rules.
- Do ignore inappropriate behavior when it seems the student is just looking for attention.
- Don't ignore behaviors that disrupt the class or might hurt someone or something.