

Successful Strategies Aimed at Helping Early-Career Educators

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PRESCHOOL/ELEMENTARY:

when transitioning from one activity to another, use the same song each time such as "Head, Shoulder, Knees, and Toes"

whisper to gain attention

have students pat themselves on the back when doing a good job

welcome each child getting off the bus or entering the classroom

sending happy notes and placing phone calls to parents for a job well done

displaying students' artwork in the classroom

interactive white board provides a wonderful center

selective use of quality instructional videos

have students sit in pairs, trios, small groups---this provides more room

switch lights off and on to gain attention and quiet

show a disappointed look on your face

when using reading groups, have a "You Can Do It" center with independent activities for those in a different group

have students move often---exercise between classes, march around the room while practicing spelling words, sing a song with motions, stand while reading, etc

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL/HIGHER EDUCATION:

use post it notes so students can place a thought or word that relates to a topic they read; then have them place them on the wall and organize them by ideas; discuss ideas before having students begin a writing assignment

ALL GRADE LEVELS:

get to know the janitors, cafeteria workers, secretaries, and nurse---they know what is happening

respect and connect with students---we learn from them

never try to talk over student voices; establish rules for who speaks and when

stay current with paperwork --attendance register, grade book, etc

be fair yet firm

ask questions

seek advice from seasoned educators; use them as your support system and to share ideas

learn, learn, learn

at the end of every day, week, month, think of one great thing that made a difference with a student

keep a "You Go Folder" that includes cards and notes from students, supervisor, colleagues, and parents; read them when you have a difficult day

use games and puzzles that are related to topics you are studying

have a variety of topic related reading material at various reading levels (read works.org)

use stickers and stamp art on papers to encourage students and to provide feedback on work quality

go to the faculty room for lunch; you need time to talk with adults and have a break

use family members who taught as role models

give the rationale before starting an activity

it's okay to be nervous, but ACT confident

display a positive and a "can do" attitude