Following Through and Discipline

Teachers must give students clear expectations and clear consequences. Teachers should never have to get angry. If you find yourself angry or really annoyed in the classroom, it's most likely because of something you didn't deal with earlier in the class, or because you didn't prep well, or because you're not getting enough sleep or eating well.

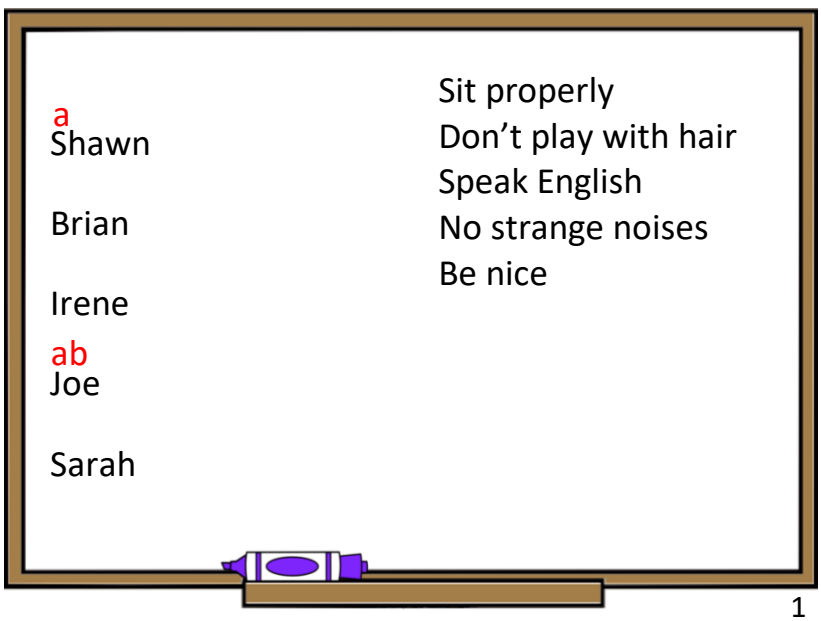
1. Make expectations/rules and consequences very clear up front before any and every activity.
    a. There's no room for getting angry and yelling. You've already lost at that point
    b. Set clear expectations and clear consequences and then <u>consistently follow through.</u>
    c. Punishing a kid without fair warning just feels unfair to kids and they will lose respect for you; whereas, if you make things very clear and give them a couple of warnings, they will usually accept it without argument.
    d. Try the ABC system below if you don't have your own system.

The ABC System

Give students two warnings and then put a letter next to their name as seen on the right. At the end of class the letters mean the following:

a = -5 points
b = -10 points
c = -15 points and extra HW

You can erase letters for good behavior if you feel it justified. Just don't be a pushover!!



2. Two situations that cover most behaviors:

    a. Kids are doing something that they shouldn't--whether the behavior is unsafe, distracting or just annoying.

        You can:

        i. Just tell them you will count each time they do that behavior and if you get to three you will give them a letter.
        ii. Tell them you will count to three and they won't get to participate in a game you are about to play (i.e. The Balloon Game).

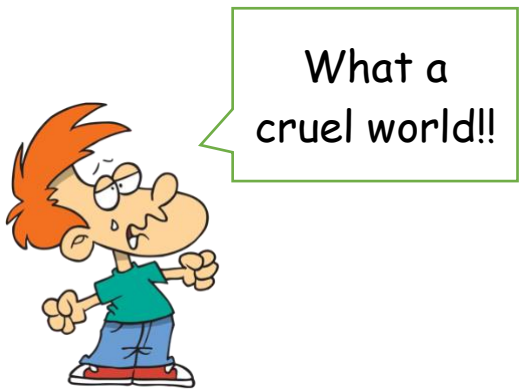
    b. Kids are doing something too slowly

        You can:

        i. Just tell them you will count down from five and if you get to zero you will give them a letter.
        ii. Tell them you will count down from five and they won't get to participate in a game you are about to play (i.e. The Balloon Game).

3. Exceptional Situations

    c. If a student cries, just pat them on the shoulder, sit next to them, and tell them it's OK. Show them that the consequence absolutely does not affect your relationship with the student. I sometimes tell them to look at me and I say very directly that I like them and know they can do better.



    d. If a student gets angry (but isn't belligerent), ask them if they need a minute or if they want to go wash their face. Usually that is enough for them to gather themselves. Again, try to connect with them if you can.

    e. Fighting, uncontrolled sobbing, extreme obstinacy, etc. You will probably want to remove the students from the room and get help from staff.