

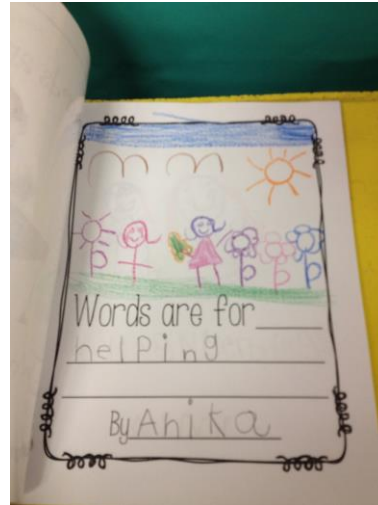
Classroom Community

Establishing a feeling of community and implementing a clear classroom management plan are integral to the foundation of creating an efficient and meaningful learning environment. It is my goal each year to establish a warm, loving and productive classroom community that best fits the diverse needs and interests of my students. This begins on the first day of school through the communication of rules, expectations, and routines.

Each year, I work together with my students to establish classroom rules.



We also work together through literature and class discussion to create class books that help us to remember how to respect and treat one another with kindness and love.



In order to help students to feel as though they are a vital part of our classroom community and to impart a sense of responsibility in themselves and in each other, I also implement a job chart to help students to realize and understand the importance of contribution.



My philosophy for managing behavior is based on the concept of positive reinforcement. I believe in providing students with immediate and frequent feedback on good behavior. Any other behaviors, including those that are undesirable, will be ignored (unless the behavior disrupts the entire class, thus requiring a warning or further action). Eventually, students will strive towards receiving praise and positive feedback, which will increase desired behaviors.

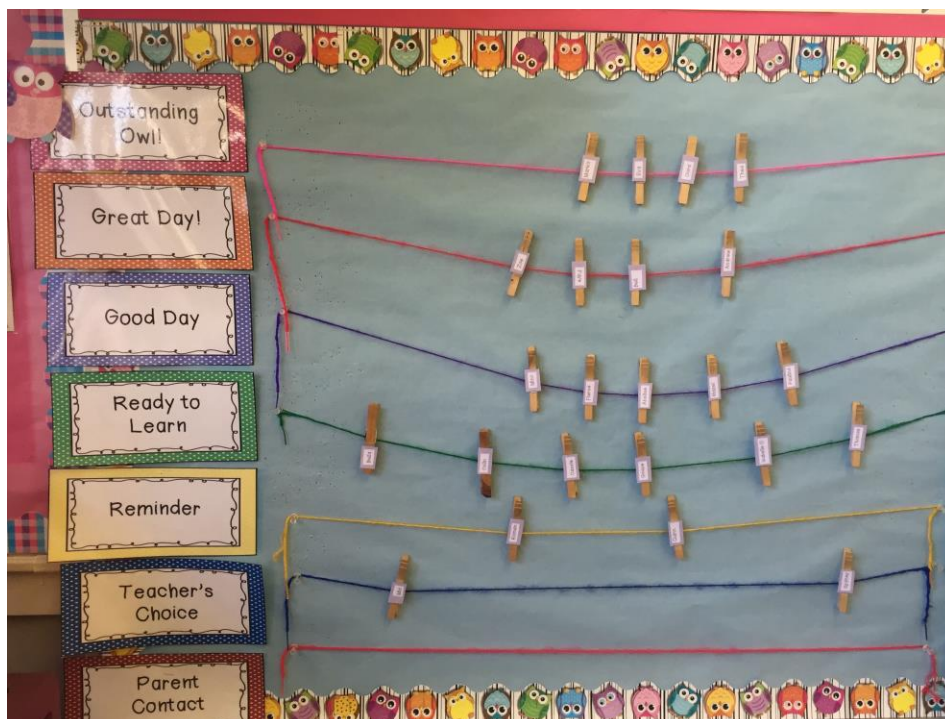
If basic positive reinforcement is not effective for a particular student, the next step is to communicate with his or her parents in order to create a successful and individualized Behavior Plan.

As mentioned before, my expectations for behavior are clearly expressed to the students, and posted on the wall for review.

Owl Behavior Chart

To give praise to students who are doing well, and to help students keep track of their own behavior, I have an Owl Behavior Chart posted in the classroom. Each child has a clothespin with his or her name on it that moves up and down the chart.




Every Monday, the students begin on “Ready to Learn”. Then, if they show good behavior and make good choices, they move up the chart to Good Day, Great Day, or Outstanding Owl. If they are not following the rules of our Kindergarten classroom, they will be moved down the chart to Reminder, Teacher’s Choice, or Parent Contact.



I send home a Daily “Behavior News” in order to provide consistent feedback to parents on their child’s classroom behavior. If a student is on Teacher’s Choice or Parent Contact, they must have their Behavior News signed, and their parents must help them to write ways that they can do better the following day.

Kindergarten Behavior News

Name: _____ Date: _____

Awesome Day!	Good Day!	Poor Day!
		
Awesome Listener Awesome Friend Awesome Worker And Followed Directions	Good Listener Good Friend Good Worker And Followed Directions	Did Not Listen Was Not a Friend Did Not Work Hard And Did Not Follow Directions

On the back, please write ways that you will do better tomorrow if you had a “Poor Day” today. Thank you.

Each morning throughout the week, students who ended the previous day on Reminder, Teacher’s Choice or Parent Contact are reset to Ready to Learn in order to provide them with a fresh start.


If students are on Outstanding Owl on Friday, they will have the opportunity to choose a treasure from our Treasure Box.

Connecting with Parents

Teacher-Parent communication is essential in order for students to have the most successful and dynamic learning experience possible.

In the beginning of the year, I offer a Back to School Night where parents can learn important information about the exciting year ahead. I prepare a PowerPoint presentation and provide parents with a take home packet with the following information: Key information about our Kindergarten classroom (homework, forms of communication, birthday celebrations, conferences, Report Cards, etc.), a Curriculum overview, Classroom Discipline, Classroom Morning/Afternoon Procedures, the Sharing Schedule, and Parent Volunteer Requirements and Opportunities. During this time, I also make sure to clearly communicate to parents my open-door (and e-mail) policy. I encourage frequent and consistent communication with my parents in order to create an authentic learning community that involves all shareholders.

I begin each week with a classroom newsletter that is posted on our classroom website. These newsletters include an overview of the academics that will be covered that week, as well as any information on upcoming classroom and school-wide events.



Dear Kinderparents,

Last week was a wonderful week of discovery, and I know that this week will be just as fun! Academically, we will be focusing on our Letter of the Week: Dd. In Math, we will finish up our Unit on Positions, and move on to Sorting! In Science, we will continue to learn about our 5 senses as we observe and describe objects around us. In Social Studies, we will discuss what it means to be a good friend, a good classmate, and a good student.

In Religion, we are learning about how the beautiful things that we see around us are all gifts from God. To go along with this, I would like you to take your child for a nature walk (even around the neighborhood is just fine). On this nature walk, have your child choose one thing that they are grateful to God for giving us (ex. Leaves, flowers, sea shells, rocks, etc).

Have them bring this special gift to class at some point this week (labeled in a plastic baggy). Eventually, we will have a box filled with God's wonderful gifts to keep in our classroom as a reminder of His love. Happy searching!

On Thursday, we will have a prayer service in the Gym, so please remind your child to come in quietly and prayerfully and have a seat. This means that we will not have Mass on Friday (no formal uniform).

One of the things that the children are really focusing on mastering this week is keeping their bodies to themselves. It would be wonderful if you could all help your children to be successful at doing this by gently reminding them of this. Hopefully, you have seen the Kindergarten Behavior News that has been coming home with your student each day. The ratings are "Awesome Day", "Good Day" and "Poor Day". If the children receive an "Awesome Day" or a "Good Day", they will get a very special sticker at the end of the day. If they receive a "Poor Day", they must show you their Behavior News, have you sign the paper, and brainstorm ways that they can do better the next day, and write those ways on the back. The Behavior News must be returned the following morning. If students are an "Outstanding Owl" on Friday, they get to choose a treasure from the Treasure Chest.

Helpful Homework Tips:

Create a special space that is free of distractions for your child to work on their homework.

If your child is struggling with correct letter formation, you can write the word for them first (referencing the Zaner-Bloser chart), and they can copy the word next to it.

Remember that the Homework is something to be done together; students should not be completing this independently at this point.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to e-mail me or stop by the classroom.

Best Regards,
Mrs. McBride

**Looking Ahead: We have been confirmed for our field trip to Uesugi Farms on Thursday, October 29th. Permission Slips will be coming home the 1st Week of October, and we will need 8 chaperones to sign up at that time. Thank you! ☺

In addition to whole-class communications, I also make sure to keep in contact with my parents through e-mail and scheduled conferences. I provide feedback on student progress through Parent Communications (sent home with assessments), and Standards-Based Progress Reports and Report Cards.

Student Name: _____ Date _____

Parent Communication

Dear Kinderparents,

If seems as though your child struggled with _____ in class this week.

In the classroom, he/she will participate in a small group or one-on-one mini-lesson to rereach this concept. In addition to this, it would be helpful to your child if you could practice these skills at home.

Some suggestions for practice are:

Thank you for help in aiding your child's learning and helping him/her to feel successful in our Kindergarten classroom!

Sincerely,
Mrs. McBride

In my classroom, I provide many opportunities for parents to volunteer, such as:

- Guided Reading Groups
- Literacy and Math Centers
- Art Projects
- Cooking Friday
- Classroom Parties and Special Events
- Field Trips