

The Art of Classroom Teaching – Teaching Journal

Winnie Mo

Is classroom teaching a science or an art? This is a question that has been ingrained in my mind over the years. I haven't found any answers through research papers and my practices. This question inspired me to explore the art of classroom learning through my teaching journals.

The art of classroom learning should be a successful and enjoyable teaching and learning process. Effective classroom management is key for successful teaching and procedures are the vital element for an effective classroom management (Wong, Harry. et al. 2014). Organizing effective procedures to guide the rhythm of classroom activities is like a play, which helps me visualize the art of classroom learning.

This teaching journal documents an example of how to set up procedures to manage my classroom activities for enjoyable and effective teaching, and to achieve the ideals of the art of classroom learning.

On the First week of school

- Have the seating plan displayed on the whiteboard (so as students know where to sit as soon as they walk in to class) and have the first warm-up task ready which can be a piece of handwriting or drawing (which requires students to settle in as quick as possible)

As students will not go to specialist classroom on time at the first day of each term, these pupils will arrive to class early and so they must have a task ready and waiting for them. These tasks should be easier, and students should be able to undertake them independently to allow the teacher greet other students as they arrive in addition to organizing the class setting or other tasks as needed.

- Transitional music or short story (2-3 minutes)

When all students are in the classroom and settled, and the teacher is ready, the teacher will play music or tell a short story. These act as a prompt for the children that a new task is about to commence, and they need to close their current task and focus on the teacher who will issue instructions for the next task.

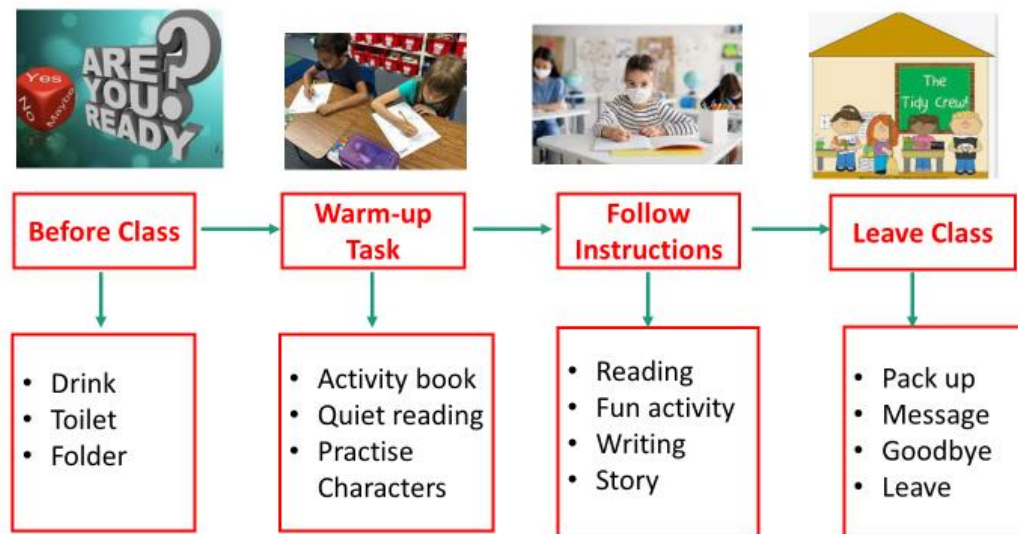
- Locate a place to organize students' materials such as writing booklets and readers, and ready a folder for each student to hold their worksheets;

On the first day, students should learn to independently locate any materials they may need for a given task without disrupting the teacher or classmates. By having the various material needed for a given task organized and located in the same spot allows students to operate independently.

- Class procedures are ready

Classroom Procedures

Teach, Rehearse, Reinforce



The examples I created for all my grades have been in use for several semesters and show the effectiveness of classroom management. This classroom procedure is important for students to understand and follow over the course of the year.

- Movement activity is ready for the first day

The students may feel excited and even nervous at their first day of school after a long break. While the serious working procedures help the teacher set a successful course for students to learn, fun activities are also an important factor in classroom learning and make learning enjoyable. The movement activities could include singing, dancing or free chat to their friends (or make new friends on the first few days)

- End class with positive conclusions

It is important for the teacher to have a minute to wrap up the class and remind students on their achievements in what they learnt today and how they performed. This is also the opportunity for the teacher to set expectations for the next class.