Classroom Management

Classroom management sets a tone for the class and enables the class to run smoothly with maximum opportunities for learning. It occurs [before learners walk through the door](#). Educators should set up their classrooms for success so that learners feel welcome and understand expectations. [Effective classroom management](#) is intended to establish and sustain an orderly environment, decrease negative behaviors, and increase time spent academically engaged. Building teacher/student relationships is an imperative part of creating a classroom community where learners feel supported and understood.

וְלֹא הַבַּיְשָׁן לָמֵד,
וְלֹא הַקַּפְּדָן מְלַמֵּד...
(פרקי אבות ב:ה)

...[A] timid person [cannot] learn and an impatient person [cannot] teach..." (*Pirkei Avot* 2:5)

- Create a warm, calm, and welcoming classroom environment. This extends to both the emotional tone that the educator sets and the physical space.
- Arrange furniture to meet learners' needs. It should be both age-appropriate and comfortable so that learners can focus their physical energy on what is happening in the classroom.
- Decorate the walls and leave room to hang learners' creations. Doing so allows the educator to reinforce ideas and learners to take ownership and pride in their learning environment.
- Play background music. Studies have shown that music helps stimulate the brain, and the appropriate music can help learners feel welcome.
- Have seating charts and school supplies (including devices) available for those who need them. Knowing that forgetting supplies is not a disqualifier to participation can help learners come to class more relaxed.
- Post the schedule for the day so that students know what to expect.
- Have a fidget basket with items for students who need them.
- Greet learners at the door. Doing so can help learners enter the learning space in a ready frame of mind since they will know that you care about them as individuals and value them as a part of the classroom community.
- Have a variety of activities (manipulatives, brain teaser puzzles, etc.) available, so learners can ease into class.
- Plan different types of activities to accommodate learners' needs and different learning styles
- Give lots of positive verbal and non-verbal reinforcement. Knowing what they are doing well lets learners know what they should continue to do.
- If learners are exhibiting disruptive behavior, find out the underlying reason for the behavior instead of responding to the surface-level behavior. Do not assume that the issue is not an academic one.
- Do not react to every learner disruption.
- Remain calm. Do not raise your voice, name call, or shame learners.
- Do not let your own biases cloud your judgement.

My Own Thoughts About Classroom Management