



King Professional Development
Engaging and Empowering Educators

10 Secrets for Effective Consequences

1. Define Consequences

We often think of consequences only in terms of negative consequences. Consequences can include positive or natural consequences of behavior.

2. QTIP -Quit Taking It Personally

Student behavior is not about you. Misbehavior is sending a message. Instead of internalizing the student's behavior, examine what their behavior may be telling you that they need. Avoid responding to negative behavior emotionally. A list of possible consequences is best pre-planned and shared with students.

3. Separate the Behavior From the Student

It is an important shift in view when you call the student a disrespectful child vs a child who is demonstrating disrespectful behavior.

4. Consequences Can Include Choices

Creating a classroom that is safe and respectful can help students to make positive choices about their behavior and consequences for their behavior.

5. Effective Consequences Start with Reflective Questions

Reflect on:

- a. What do you want the child to LEARN? How will it impact student-teacher relationships?
- b. Does the consequence fit the behavior?
- c. Does the consequence repair the harm done or the damaged relationship?
- d. Are there opportunities for reflection and learning?
- e. Do the consequences enhance responsibility and accountability?

6. Consequences Must Align with Positive Beliefs About Children

If we believe that students do well if they can or that children are still learning the skills they need for life, then our consequences should align with these beliefs.

7. Consequences Can't Teach Capabilities or Skills That a Student Doesn't Possess

Ensure that consequences include social emotional learning components to help teach and model the skills that students are not exhibiting.

8. Consequences Are Not a One Size Fits All

Build relationships with your students to learn what motivates and engages them to exhibit positive behavior.

9. Consequences Are Only a Part of How Students Learn

There is no quick fix. Effective discipline programs include consequences, expectations, instruction, modeling and recognitions.

10. Consequences Are Not About Getting Even or Making Students Feel Horrible

Consequences should teach and encourage appropriate behavior. "Where did we get the idea that in order to make students do better we have to make them feel worse?"