

Rules are put in place to maintain discipline, but classroom management is set up so we do not have to apply discipline for breaking rules. We are now one-fourth of the way through the school year, so let’s take a look at classroom management.

Many new teachers take the attitude of wait and see when it comes to classroom management. Experienced teachers will cover management and rules, but do not want to take the time to teach classroom management. It is something that always needs refreshing.

We have already talked about getting to know your students and about keeping a positive attitude toward them. Likewise, we talked last week about teaching students to manage themselves. Over the next two weeks, we will look at some of the finer points of classroom management. [Harry Wong](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u27OKWfLh6Y)¹ states this best: “An effective teacher manages a classroom. An ineffective teacher disciplines a classroom.”

So how do you manage a classroom? The first thing to remember is that rules have consequences, but a procedure has reminders. A well-managed classroom has a procedure for everything teachers and students do, including procedures for when a student is absent. Procedures should never make more work for the teacher. Procedures should let your students know how learning will take place in your classroom.

You may have had procedures in place when the year started that either you or the school created. By now, you may have found a few more things that need procedures. The main thing to remember is you must teach and model procedures to students, no matter their ages, and they must practice them. Then you need to monitor and reteach procedures as needed. You should never use punishment when students do not follow a procedure. Use reminders and visual cues to help students remember the proper steps they need to take to accomplish a task.

One of the benefits of a well-managed classroom will be the time you save doing simple tasks like attendance, announcements, restroom breaks and a myriad of other things that chip away at time.

¹Wong, H., & Wong, R. (2009). *The first days of school: How to be an effective teacher*. Mountain View, CA: Harry K. Wong Publications.

November Basic ctYou.org Classroom Development professional development sessions will be offered in Stillwater. There are five different dates to choose from.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/basic-ctyou-classroom-development-tickets-46154997841>