

POSITIVE CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENTS = POSITIVE ACADEMIC RESULTS

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### **Abstract**

This article discusses the effects of a positive classroom environment and its' impact on student behavior and achievement. It also provides strategies for developing expectations for student achievement and the importance of parental involvement. A positive classroom environment is essential in keeping behavior problems to a minimum. There are a number of ways in which teachers can create positive classroom environments. Some of them will be discuss within this paper. It is essential for teachers to start the school year with high expectations in order to guarantee a positive climate. To ensure an atmosphere of success, teachers must explain why expectations are important. By allowing and encouraging parents to be involved within the classroom; students and parents feel that what is occurring in the classroom is important. Parental involvement in the classroom and in their child's education are two factors that play a crucial role in having a successful school year as well as having a positive classroom environment.

Creating a positive classroom environment is an important aspect of effective teaching. By creating positive classroom environments, teachers are provided the opportunity for better classroom discipline and management. A positive classroom environment is essential in keeping behavior problems to a minimum. It also provides the students with an opportunity to think and behave in a positive manner. Positive classroom environments help to enhance, promote, and encourage students' learning in all academic settings. The classroom environment can be defined in terms of the students' and teachers' shared perceptions in that environment (Fraser & Pickett, 2010). There are a number of ways in which teachers can create positive classroom environments. Some suggestions for creating a positive classroom environment includes: starting the year with high expectations, encouraging student involvement, making the classroom visually appealing, getting parents involved, and using effective praise and effective feedback.

It is essential for teachers to start the school year with high expectations in order to guarantee a positive classroom environment. The implementation of positive expectations should occur on the first day of school. By doing this, the students will gain a sense of ownership & responsibility for their actions. This implementation will encourage them to behave and act appropriately with an academically structured setting. Teachers should adhere to these expectations throughout the school year. Teachers must strictly adhere to the structured guidelines set forth at the onset of the school year. Failure to do so will undermine the process and students will revert to previous undesirable behaviors.

To ensure a positive classroom environment, teachers must explain why expectations are important. Students must also have an input in the development of a positive environment. This involvement will allow them to become stakeholders in the learning process and encourages an atmosphere of shared beliefs (Andrews, 2008).

This new found sense of responsibility enables students to make their own decisions about learning. One possible strategy utilized to encourage student involvement is the use of classroom monitors. The monitor (s) can be either an individual student or a group of students. These students will have assigned tasks to be carried out on a daily bases within the classroom. This engaging activity allows them to have positive interaction with their peers with the classroom setting. As a result, the students are provided an opportunity to take on leadership roles.

The classroom should also be arranged and set-up in a way that promotes and increases students' learning through group cohesiveness. The classroom should be inviting by using bright, and bold colors on the walls. Blair (2008), states that, "No one wants to learn in a dull environment".

The teachers should also encourage academic engagement by incorporating the use of word

walls and thematic units in the classroom. The word walls and thematic units may serve as motivational tools for the students. These areas should always be organized, neat, and clean.

Keeping bulletin boards up-to-date in the classroom encourages students to perform to the best of their ability. Undeniably, the appearance of a classroom leads to a positive classroom environment and a productive school year.

Moreover, allowing and encouraging parents to be involved within the classroom can aid in creating a positive environment. Parental involvement in the classroom and in their child's education are two factors that play a crucial role in having a successful school year as well as having a positive classroom environment. Blair (2008), states that, "When parents are involved in the classroom , it sends the message that what is happening in the classroom is important."

Parents may actively get involved by chaperoning on field trips and taking part in special events that take place at the school and out of school.

Teachers should remember to always try to involve those parents who are unable to be actively involved in the classroom throughout the school day.

A positive classroom environment is an important tool for establishing a successful and effective school year. There are numerous factors that may have an influence on positive classroom environments. However, it is critical that teachers create a positive classroom environment to encourage the students' growth. A positive classroom environment enhances the students' ability to learn and to be productive in and out of the classroom.

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