



Teaching Threads

The Basics of Effective Teaching

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▪ *The Effective Teacher Mind Set*

The foundation for becoming an effective teacher is to develop and maintain, what I refer to as an effective teacher mind set.

The Effective Teacher Mind Set is a positive, enthusiastic, and capable attitude which is reflected in by a teacher who:

- Believes that all students can be taught regardless of behavioral, family, emotional, social, community, and/or environmental problems;
- Believes she/he has the ability to cause positive changes in the lives of students;
- Believes she/he is responsible and accountable for the progress of her/his students;
- Implements data-driven and reflective teaching; and
- Demonstrates an excitement for learning!

▪ *Characteristics of an Effective Teacher*

In addition to modeling the effective teacher mind set, an effective teacher is one who:

- Maximizes the time students are truly engaged in learning;
- Utilizes a direct instruction approach and an interactive teaching style;
- Continually and accurately monitors the effectiveness of teaching and makes

- changes necessary to maintain consistent progress of all students;
- Carefully monitors student progress and promptly provides corrective feedback in a positive manner;
- Attempts to identify the causes of student difficulty and/or lack of student progress and implements differentiation, scaffolding, and/or accommodations;
- Maintains a high level of positive teacher interactions with students;
- Monitors the difficulty level and demands of instructional tasks;
- Creates and maintains a classroom environment with a strong academic focus;
- Provides students with options and choices;
- Motivates students with frequent praise, recognition, and appreciation; and
- Designs meaningful, purposeful, and functional learning activities which present variety, challenge, and motivation for students.

▪ *Planning to be Effective*

Effective teaching requires planning and knowledge in the following areas:

- Knowledge of the components of the effective teacher mind set and the

ability to accurately self-assess their mind set and behavior;

- Application of strategies to build teacher efficacy, especially when working with students with learning and behavior needs;
- Setting challenging expectations for student learning which enable student to succeed in current and future environments - in school, community, and employment;
- Implementing strategies to demonstrate teacher accountability and responsibility for student learning and progress;
- Knowledge and application of data-driven and reflective teaching;
- Skills in the management and maximizing of instructional time and student engagement;
- Strategies required in the analysis of the learning environment, task demands, environmental conditions, instructional materials and methods, and interpersonal relationships; and
- The ability to add that little something extra to instructional activities with high levels of creativity, an element of surprise, and a hands-on, listen-up, and eyes-wide-open approach to teaching and learning.



▪ *The Effective Teaching Lesson*

Lesson planning is essential for effective teaching. An effective teaching lesson includes these components.

- Lesson Objectives and Methods of Evaluating Student Achievement of Each Objective
- Prerequisite Skills Needed for Student Engagement and Objective Completion
- Teaching Steps
 1. Building student interest and motivation to learn
 2. Stating and posting goals for today's lesson
 3. Modeling correct performance skills
 4. Monitoring student learning and performance
 5. Student involvement in summarizing what was learned
 6. Teacher evaluation of lesson

▪ **Additional Notes for Teachers**

- Show everyone your love for learning! How can you build this in your students if you don't live it yourself?
- Find strengths in all your students and let them use those strengths often.
- Demonstrate high expectations for yourself and your students.
- Avoid teachers who are whiners, yeah-butters, nay sayers, or lounge potatoes.
- Surround yourself with colleagues you admire.
- Every student needs a smile, some encouragement, and humor every day.
- Accept your responsibility for teaching your students.

- Begin planning each lesson with “What Can I Do To Make It Easier For My Students To Learn And Behave?”
- Remember that you have the most important and fun job in the world. Just look at your students' faces when their light bulb turns on!
- Don't obsess over things you can't change. Do work hard on those you can.
- Don't accept statements like "none of the parents of these students attend school meetings." Do accept the challenge to do something differently to get one additional parent to attend each time. Remember, "if you always do what you always did, you will always get what you always got."
- Some at-risk students, who strongly considered dropping out, didn't because there was one person in their school who they felt really cared about them. You can be that person for your students.
- Don't wait for your students to be motivated. Motivate them!
- Work to be honest with your students. Say what you mean and follow through. Strive to be professional, confidential, interested, and sensitive.
- Communicate with the parents of your students on a regular basis. Start each conversation with a positive statement or observation about their child.
- At times, you will disagree with other teachers, parents, and administrators. It's OK to disagree. Disagreements force us to think carefully about our positions and the reasons we hold those positions. Always demonstrate the respect toward others that you wish demonstrated toward you.
- Ask your student WHY? Why they gave a certain answer, why they hold a certain position, and/or why they behave in a certain manner.
- Show off how proud you are to be a teacher.
- A teacher is a teacher 24/7. Your after-hours image is important, especially if you are involved in your community.

As always, my intent in presenting these activities is to help teachers answer this question -

What can I do to make it easier for my students to learn and behave?



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