

## EEX 3616

### Lecture 2

#### *Creating Positive Classroom Environments*

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## Characteristics of Effective Classrooms

### Effective Classrooms

- low incidence of behavior problems
- high success rates (80% or better)
- Academic learning time/engaged time
  - time with materials or activities related to the outcome measures that are being used

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## 1. Instruction guided by pre-planned curriculum

- learning goals and objectives established.
- sufficient *allocated* time for each goal is established.
- curriculum calculated to provides kids several opportunities to learn.

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## 2. Students are carefully oriented to lessons

- specify goals and objectives
- modeling
- pacing
- questioning
- prompting
- appropriate feedback
- praise
- corrective feedback
- low rates of criticism

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## 3. Classroom learning time used efficiently

- high rates of engaged time
- high rates of student success (> 80%)
- teacher maintains student attention

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## Smooth and Effective Transitions

1. teach transition rules
2. avoid disruptive practices/routines
3. schedule to minimize transitions
4. Pre-correction - advance organizers
5. create routines

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**Routines:  
Classroom Transition Examples**

**Rules for Transition out of Classroom**

*Use: insures clean-up and prevents riot on way out of class*

- put items in desk
- sit quietly
- wait for teacher to dismiss
- reinforce quiet/compliant students with first dismissal

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**Routines:  
Classroom Transition Examples**

**Transition from Lesson to Lesson**

*Use: efficient lesson transitions & disruption prevention*

- teacher monitors student work
- teacher selects student with appropriate behavior to assist in preparing for transition
- other students continue to work
- student helper hands out new papers/books/supplies
- teacher gives cue to put away materials from prior lesson
- reinforcement for quick transition

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**Routines:  
Classroom Transition Examples**

**Transition Lottery**

*Use: efficient lesson transitions to undesired subjects*

- teacher numbers all books
- at transition time, teacher gives directions and gives signal for a lottery
- teacher pulls numbers from a jar and provides a prize for the student whose number was pulled

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#### 4. Established standards for classroom and school

##### *“Characteristics of Effective Rules”*

- Expected behaviors are explicit
- Rules are stated positively
- Rules are stated succinctly
- Rules are stated in observable terms
- Rules are made PUBLIC...easy to see
- Ensure enforceability/reward
- Smaller numbers of rules (about 5)
- Consistency
- Rules need to be taught
- Model the rules for the students

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#### **Class Rules - What’s Wrong with These?**

1. Do not throw school property
2. Do not write in school book
3. No sword-fighting
4. Being gross is not allowed
5. Run in the hall if you want detention
6. Break a student's bone- go home
7. No guns
8. No fire setting
9. Do not attempt to engage in any disagreements over any directions given by the teacher until at least 3 hours after the direction has passed or until an outside adult has been consulted and is willing to mediate.
10. Do not miss any math problems
11. Do not throw rocks on Saturdays
12. Don't think mean things about teachers
13. Don't paint ugly graffiti on the side of the school building
14. Cursing at the teacher is not allowed in the classroom
15. Do not enter the classroom late

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#### **Teach Rules as “BIG IDEAS”**

##### **Example**

1. **Respect Yourself**
    - in the classroom (do your best)
    - on the playground (follow safety rules)
  2. **Respect Others**
    - in the classroom (raise your hand to speak)
    - in the stairway (single file line)
  3. **Respect Property**
    - in the classroom (ask before borrowing)
    - in the lunchroom (pick up your mess)
- } **INVOLVE STUDENTS!**

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## 5. Teacher/Student Interaction

- high expectation for student learning
- incentives and rewards to promote excellence
- personal interactions between teacher/student are positive

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## Effective Characteristics

- scanning
- error corrections
- reinforcement
- assessment of learning
- redirecting

## Rule Implementation Guidelines

- be consistent
- be business-like
- reinforce compliance

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## Effective Management Depends on Effective Instruction

### **ROUTINES**

1. Create clear student routines
2. Create clear staff routines
3. Create clear data collection routines

### **RULES**

1. Create a small number of global rules
2. Each rule should be succinct
3. State each rule in a positive manner
4. Teach and model rules

### **ENFORCE RULES**

1. Enforce rules the same across students, time, and staff
2. Prevent misbehavior
3. Reinforce appropriate behavior

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