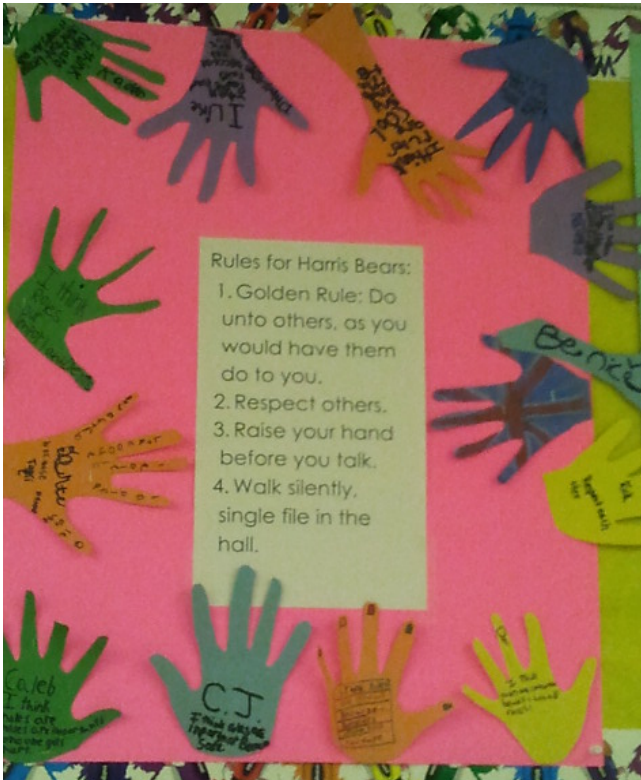


Learning Environment



The first lesson that I taught was a “Get to Know Miss Hellwig” where I established the rules in the classroom. Previously, I had talked with Mrs. Harris about what her classroom rules were than collaboratively we came up with four rules for the classroom. While I typed up the rules students’ traced their hands. In each of their handprints they finished one of two sentences: I like when people follow the rules because... or I think rules are important because... By having them do this project they became invested in the rules that they created.

To gain students’ attention I tried numerous attention getters before I found the methods that worked for me. I would count backwards from ten, count up to ten, blow my whistle in gym class, create a secret word, count down 3-2-1 eyes on me, mouths closed or clapped a rhythm. Since I was using so many different techniques with the students this often became confusing, as they did not know what was expected of them. My Teacher Advisor suggested that I find a routine with two or three so that the students understand what is expected of them. I evaluated each of the techniques that I was using and found that counting down from ten was a great way to signal how much time they had let to finish a task and be ready to move on. Having the students follow a clapping rhythm helped me to gage whether they were paying attention or not. Lastly, count down 3-2-1 eyes on me, mouths closed helped to settle the students quickly for instruction.

I established my classroom routine from watching my TA and trying different techniques. My lessons would start with an attention getter and then an explanation of the schedule. At the end of the lesson, the students would fill out an exit slip. In math, “Prime Your Brain” was a great way to prepare the students for the class. Social Studies would often begin with an educational video or reading or a picture book that related to India. The routine that I established in gym class was from my TA. Gym would start by having the students’ line up on the green line and go over the expectations for Wonka tag. After the warm up we would do another activity followed by a cool down and ticket to leave. By establishing a routine students knew what to expect and what was expected of them this set them up to be successful during class.

Establishing a routine, classroom management and expectations are the puzzle pieces that connect to create a successful learning environment. Throughout the past five weeks I have established a solid puzzle out of these three pieces.