

The Responsive Classroom Approach

What Is Responsive Classroom?

Responsive Classroom is a student-centered, social and emotional learning approach to teaching and discipline. It is comprised of a set of research- and evidence-based practices designed to create safe, joyful, and engaging class-room and school communities for both students and teachers. Schools and teachers that adopt the *Responsive Classroom* approach focus on (1) creating optimal learning conditions for students to develop the academic, social, and emotional skills needed for success in and out of school, and (2) building positive school and classroom communities where students learn, behave, hope, and set and achieve goals.

The Approach to Teaching

There can be no doubt that what teachers believe, know, and can do powerfully influences student learning. *Responsive Classroom* works because it addresses this belief-knowledge-action triad. It shifts teachers' beliefs about children and learning, equips them with new knowledge and skills, and encourages them to transform their teaching by putting their new beliefs and knowledge into action. In the *Responsive Classroom* approach, instruction is designed with an understanding of the natural learning cycle, which begins with a sense of purpose or goal for learning and leads to the deepest, most meaningful learning.









Learn more at: www.responsiveclassroom.org



The Approach to Discipline

Educators using the *Responsive Classroom* approach take a proactive and nonpunitive approach to discipline through the application of the *Responsive Classroom* discipline framework. These discipline practices emphasize building intrinsic motivation that leads to the development of self-control and self-regulation, rather than depending on external motivators such as the promise of rewards or the threat of punishment to shape behavior.

Component:		Goals:	
	Creating a safe and predictable learning environment	đ	To lay the foundation for a safe and positive learning community
	Preventing off-task behavior and misbehavior	đ	To establish rules and hold students to those rules in a proactive, firm, fair, and consistent manner
	Responding to off- task behavior and misbehavior	đ	To handle off-task behavior and misbehavior respectfully, and to help the student get back on task, repair any damage caused, and develop self-discipline so as to prevent simi- lar problems in the future
	Solving chronic behavior problems	đ	To understand the student's particular be- havior problem and address it with modified or individualized discipline practices that help the student develop self-regulation; to help the student learn which strategies for returning to positive behavior work for them
	Managing outbursts	đ	To deescalate or interrupt behavioral or emotional outbursts, and to draw on com- munity support to help a student regain control at the point of escalation

Responsive Classroom®

Responsive Classroom creates the conditions for social, emotional, and academic success by using practical strategies in the following four domains.



Positive community:

A safe, predictable, joyful, and inclusive environment where all students have a sense of belonging and significance. Discipline is taught through a set of strategies aimed at proactively setting students up for success, preserving the dignity of the student and group, and helping students to develop self-discipline.

Morning Meeting and Responsive Advisory Meeting: Daily meetings that build community, honor identity, and promote belonging, significance, and fun.

Teacher language: Speaking in ways that lead each student to envision success, think deeply, set goals, and work hard to achieve them.

Positive discipline: Involving students in creating rules, proactively teaching these rules, and responding nonpunitively to restore positive behavior, preserve student dignity, and continue learning.



Effective management:

A calm and orderly learning environment that promotes autonomy, responsibility, and high engagement in learning.

Routines and expectations: Managing classroom time and space in ways that allow students to focus on learning and building autonomy.

Classroom organization: Organizing the classroom space to represent and support the learners it serves.



Engaging academics:

Learner-centered lessons that are participatory, appropriately challenging, fun, and relevant, and that promote curiosity, wonder, and interest.

Academic Choice: Giving students meaningful choices in their learning.

Teaching the language of learning: Intentionally teaching speaking and listening competencies necessary for college and career readiness.

Active teaching and student practice: Teaching new skills in a way that includes demonstration and guided practice.



Developmentally responsive teaching:

Basing all decisions for teaching and discipline upon research and knowledge of students' social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development.

Knowing all students: A collection of practices for learning about each student individually, culturally, and developmentally.

Building upon strengths: Structuring appropriately challenging lessons to connect learning to and build upon students' strengths.

Parents as partners: Strategies for involving families of diverse cultures and backgrounds.

actions



The First Weeks of School

Educators participating in a *Responsive Classroom* four-day course will be poised to apply practices and strategies right away as they begin the school year. Here is an idea of what to expect.

Elementary: K-6



behavior skills

 Work together to finalize classroom rules



The First Weeks of School

Educators participating in a *Responsive Classroom* four-day course will be poised to apply practices and strategies right away as they begin the school year. Here is an idea of what to expect.

Middle School: 6-8

