

Classroom Management Newsletter

Considerations about Interventions

An intervention is any teacher action, technique, or strategy used in stopping problem behaviours in the classroom. Helping students become self-directing, responsible, and empathetic towards others and allowing teachers to teach more effectively are reasons for intervening when students break classroom agreements (Charles, 2002). Furthermore, interventions are necessary because "if students don't see the school imposing appropriate consequences on students who misbehave, they come to believe good behaviour is meaningless" (Bonnell, 2004, p. 44). But Charles (2002) advises teachers to be wary when judging problem behaviours based on their own personal morality. Teachers "remain on firmer ground when we think of student behaviour in terms of desirable outcomes of education, or whether or not students have abided by class agreements, or whether the behaviour serves the student poorly or well" (p. 223). When misbehaviour does occur, however, teachers must decide when and how to intervene (Cruickshank, Bainer, & Metcalf, 1995).

Cruickshank, Bainer, and Metcalf (1995) believe there are at least four factors that should be considered before intervening: interrupting the lesson, the nature and severity of the misbehaviour,

the student involved, and the time the misbehaviour occurred. Furthermore, Shukla-Mehta and Albin (2003) suggest teachers use good judgment when deciding what behaviours need intervention and to ensure that consequences match the severity of the problem behaviours demonstrated by students. If consequences do not match the misbehaviours or attend to the needs of students, behaviour escalation may result. In addition, it is recommended that teachers intervene early when less severe problem behaviors occur, so they can avoid potentially more serious incidents (Shukla-Mehta & Albin, 2003). Gordon (1976) helps identify when interventions are necessary by using his concept of problem ownership - focusing on who, either the students or teacher, is most affected by the problem behaviour. By correctly identifying problem ownership, Gordon believes teachers can intervene and have more effective interactions with students. If a student, for example, chooses not to attend class or does not complete his work, the problem behaviour is said to be owned by the student. But if a student's behaviour were to interfere with the learning of others or with the teacher's ability to instruct effectively, the teacher owns the problem and must decide how to intervene and change the student's problem-causing behaviour.

Next month: Considerations about Interventions - Part 2

The Trust Level System for Education Students & New Teachers

Socrates had said that "I cannot teach anybody anything, I can only make them think." The Trust Level System is a guide to help student teachers and new teachers intervene when student misbehaviours occur. Moreover, it requires them to think about how they would use the system in accordance with their own philosophy of discipline. The system also holds students accountable for their actions, but lets them consider how their actions reflect the values that they and their classmates share.



"The system gives students a chance to reflect on whether their actions coincide with their shared beliefs and values."

In the Trust Level System Workshop for Education Students & New Teachers, participants will have the opportunity to explore their philosophy of discipline and how it fits with their greater philosophy of education. Ways to introduce the Trust Level System to students are explored and how classroom rules and values can form the basis for a trusting, positive student/teacher relationship.

Quote of the Month

"The only person who is educated is the one who has learned how to learn and change."

- Carl Rogers

Upcoming Events

AVAILABLE NOW!

New, all-inclusive Trust Level System Intervention Manuals

We are coming to MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO between August 12 - 27.

Book your workshop at www.trustlevelsystem.com

TLSIM Workshop for Education Students & New Teachers

Friday, August 29

9:30am – 12:00pm Room 6

Henry Grube Education Center

Register at www.trustlevelsystem.com

Cost: \$5.00

Workshops & Manuals

Interested in learning more about the Trust Level System or purchasing TLSIM Manuals?

Book a workshop or order a set of manuals for your staff today.

TRUST LEVEL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

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