

Discipline & Affirmation

We want your experience as a catechist to be positive and energizing, so please consider the following when it comes to discipline and affirmation:

Communicate your expectations the very first day!

You can even create your rules together as a class.

- No talking when someone else is talking (Respect)
- Remain seated and raise your hand when you need something (Respect, again)
- Be kind to others (Respect, yet again!)

Stress that making poor choices necessitates consequences.

- Give a verbal warning for first offense
- Write name on board for second offense
- Send student to director for third offense, and contact parent
- For persistent issues, invite parent into the classroom to sit with his or her child (discuss this with a director first, however, as she may have other ideas to try).

Talk to the child privately to find out what is going on.

Perhaps you will learn of a reason for the behavior, which will allow you to form a plan of action with the child as well.

Try to be patient but firm.

Yelling is not an appropriate way to address children in a classroom.

Try to whisper instead of getting louder.

Try silent pauses when the class is off task. Turn the lights off and sit in silence for a moment.

Recognize GOOD Behavior

Recognize that behavior by saying something such as, "I like how (name) is listening to my directions!" Or place a piece of candy on the desk of an on-task child without saying a word.

The class will catch on and want to get caught being good as well!

Use some of these great affirmations in your classroom:

- Awesome!
- Good for you!
- Great answer!
- I knew you could do it!
- I'm proud of you!
- Way to go!
- What a good listener!
- You're a great helper!
- You're on the right track!
- Nicely done!
- Super!
- Exactly right!
- Wow, that's a great answer!
- Keep it up!
- Excellent!
- You are so kind!

Remember that students often relate the character of God to those who teach them about God --Love and Mercy should always guide us.