

News Notes

A Newsletter for Teachers of Students with Significant
Cognitive Disabilities
Educational Equity for All



March 2016

10 Ways to Sabotage Your Classroom Management

Here are some habits you might have developed that are messing with your classroom management, along with more effective alternatives.

1. Smiling at the Wrong Times

Alternative: Make a conscious effort to hold a neutral, “on-task” facial expression when you need your class to be focused.

2. Handling Problems Publicly

Alternative: Whenever possible, address off-task behavior in private.

3. All Sound, No Sight

Alternative: Provide visual cues for what students are expected to do.

4. Not Waiting for Quiet

Alternative: Before addressing your class, force yourself to wait a few extra seconds (about five) until everyone – everyone – is completely quiet.

5. Making Students Choose Between Listening and Reading

Alternative: If you have preliminary remarks to make before giving students written material, do your talking first, then pass out the papers.

6. Only Speaking in “Don’ts”

Alternative: Tell students what to do.

7. Taking Too Long

Alternative: Just becoming aware of this problem will help you improve it.

8. Staying Up Front

Alternative: Move around while you teach.

9. Focusing on the Problems

Alternative: You’ve probably heard of “catch them being good,” but actually doing it takes concentration.

10. Taking Things Personally

Alternative: A mental trick I used to help me step away from those hurt feelings was to think of myself as a service provider – like a dentist – and my students as patients.

<http://www.middleweb.com/19037/10-ways-sabotage-classroom-management/>



Pete the Cat is the go-to book for many kindergarten and elementary classrooms. Here are **Pete the Cat freebies**, videos and books listed all

in one place so you won’t have to go digging to look for them.

<http://www.kindergartenworks.com/kindergarten-teaching-ideas/writing/pete-the-cat-freebies/>



9 Awesome Sensory Tools to Help Your Fidgety Kids in the Classroom

1. **Pipe Cleaners:** These are one of the easiest and most cost effective tools to come by. The combination of soft touch and flexibility make a great tool for kids to quietly fidget with.
2. **Silly Putty:** Good old fashioned silly putty allows the child to stretch and squeeze while quietly sitting at their desk.
3. **Worry Rock:** A worry rock or worry stone is a small smooth stone that fits in the palm of your hand.
4. **Sensory Sticks:** These are really cool. The brightly colored stick is a BP/latex free, pocket sized sensory tool.
5. **Stress Ball:** Stress balls are an easy one to keep in the desk and bring out to squeeze on.
6. **Tangle Jr. Hand Puzzle:** I love this hand puzzle! More than just a fidget it is quiet hand held puzzle.
7. **Puffer Balls:** Similar to the stress ball, a puffer ball is fun to squeeze but also adds the extra tactile nubs on the outside.
8. **Sensory Bracelets:** Sensory bracelets are so great because they stay on the child and go with them anywhere.
9. **Desk Buddy Ruler:** The desk buddy is great for the classroom. It can stay up on the child's desk and offer sensory input when needed. I like this one because it remains in the child's line of sight offering a reminder to play with it instead of seeking sensory input elsewhere.

<http://adventuresinwonderland.com/awesome-sensory-tools-help-fidgety-kids-classroom/>

FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



[http://ckisloski.blogspot.com/2014/10/hidden-partners-sight-word-style.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed:+KindergartenHoldingHandsAndStickingTogether+\(Kindergarten:+Holding+Hands+and+Sticking+Together\)#_a5y_p=2758676](http://ckisloski.blogspot.com/2014/10/hidden-partners-sight-word-style.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed:+KindergartenHoldingHandsAndStickingTogether+(Kindergarten:+Holding+Hands+and+Sticking+Together)#_a5y_p=2758676)

TEACHING TIPS AND TRICKS-

The North Carolina Museum of Art provides a wide array of **free and inexpensive resources** for educators of all ages and disciplines. From Teacher's Day Out tour of the museum to both on-site and off-site workshops and webinars and lesson plans, the museum is dedicated to bringing their collection to you and your students.

National Park Service – The great outdoors, especially our nation's parks, are our greatest classrooms! **The National Park Service** offers distance learning, curriculum materials, and professional development resources for teachers. Continuing with the outdoor education theme, my fondest and most rewarding professional development experiences were through the following three programs. They are a little more costly than the free and inexpensive programs I've shared, but in my opinion they are worth every penny!

1. **Project Learning Tree** – They have recently expanded their award-winning environmental education program to include curriculum for preschool children too.
2. **Project WILD** – a wildlife focused conservation education program, is based on the premise that young people and educators have a vital interest in learning about our natural world. Sharing some of these experiences with my students makes me realize how true this is!
3. **Project Wet** has dedicated itself to the mission of reaching children, parents, teachers and community members of the world with water education. What an awesome way to help in educating children about the most precious resource on the planet — water.

ALTERNATIVE AND AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION



<https://www.assistiveware.com/e-learning-videos>

Welcome to the e-Learning video epicenter where you will find informative demonstration videos on **Proloquo2Go** and **Proloquo4Text**. The videos are free and anyone can participate. Just click on a video title to see a complete description and to view the video. Training Attendance Certificate available.

Guest Videos

Expand your knowledge with these previously recorded special guest videos that are general in nature and not product specific. **iPads & Apps - For Learning, For Leisure, As Tools for Autistic Kids, and Adults** - Shannon Des Roches Rosa (2012) **Autism & Augmentative and Alternative Communication: Research-based Best Practices** - Joanne M. Cafiero, Ph.D. (2012)

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<http://www.autismontheseas.com/>

<http://beyondpenguins.ehe.osu.edu/stories-for-students#dinosaurs>

<http://www.sanchezclass.com/downloadcafe.htm>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



<http://www.ceconvention.org/cecroadtrip/>

SENSORY PROCESSING CHALLENGES

"This priceless treasure for the SPD community describes Sensory Processing Disorder with clarity, rigor and a wealth of practical advice that will equip professionals in all disciplines to understand and to help children, adolescents and adults."

