



# Coaches' Connection

*Focus: Creating an Effective Classroom Climate*

## What does an effective classroom climate look like?

An effective classroom climate occurs when:

- \* The environment is safe to take risks
- \* When there is active participation
- \* When there are clear expectations for both academics and behavior

## Classroom Management



- 1. Build Community**
- 2. Design a Safe, Friendly, and Well-Managed Classroom Environment**
- 3. Include Students in Creating Rules, Norms, Routines, and Consequences**
- 4. Create a Variety of Communication Channels**
- 5. Always Be Calm, Fair, and Consistent**
- 6. Know the Students You Teach**
- 7. Address Conflict Quickly and Wisely**
- 8. Integrate Positive Classroom Rituals**
- 9. Keep It Real**
- 10. Partner with Parents and Guardians**





## Online Classroom Management Tool

[www.classdojo.com](http://www.classdojo.com)

### What is ClassDojo?



ClassDojo is a classroom tool that helps teachers improve behavior in their classrooms quickly and easily. It also captures and generates data on behavior that teachers can share with parents and administrators

Better learning behaviors, smoother lessons and hassle-free data – and its free!

Try it right now! ▶

**THIS IS A FREE TOOL**

**\*\*\*THIS IS AN APP AS WELL\*\***

## Video Corner - Classroom Management Ideas

(Click on the title below to link to the video)



[Tricks of The Trade](#)



[How To Get Students Ready For Learning](#)

## 5 Pro-Active Strategies for Positive Behavior Management:

1. Have a routine in place for EVERYTHING and practice procedures, not punishment.  
⇒ Know all of your rules and procedures to the tiniest detail, and if a student stretches those rules even a tiny bit, address it. Having your procedures firmly in place will make teaching easier and more effective throughout the entire year.
2. Have a very SIMPLE, positive, whole-class reinforcement system and use individual modification plans for kids with behavioral issues.  
⇒ Continually reinforcing positive behavior will help students to follow procedures. Typically, a whole-class plan that provides incentives for good behavior is enough to motivate the majority of children in your class and creates a much more supportive learning environment. The needs of more challenging students can be met through individual behavior modification plans which provide additional structure.
3. Have a LOW-MAINTENANCE method for regular communication with parents about behavior.
4. Make general rules and consequences that are RELATED and LOGICAL, and enforce them in ways that are appropriate for individual children.  
⇒ Every incident should be handled on a case-by-case basis, because each child and situation are different. However, there should be a common thread running throughout and all kids should see a clear connection between what they do and the resulting consequences.
5. Show kids the power of their influence on how the classroom is run and make a clear connection between the way THEY behave and the way YOU behave.  
<http://thecornerstoneforteachers.com/free-resources/behavior-management/pro-active>

## Classroom Culture:

Every classroom has a culture. Some aspects of your classroom culture might have evolved organically, while others might have been carefully planned and implemented. As the teacher, you are in charge of the classroom culture. For that reason, it might be a good idea to reflect a bit to see if what you have created is working in the ways that you had planned. Consider the following 12 questions with regards to your classroom culture:

1. What are 5 adjectives that describe my classroom culture?
2. How do my students feel about school?
3. How do my students feel about each other? How well do they work together?
4. Do we “gel?” Do we feel like a cohesive group?
5. Is my class a safe place to take academic risks?
6. Are questions, creativity, originality, and new ideas welcome?
7. What values are important in my classroom-respect? Tolerance? Trustworthiness? Self-control? Kindness?
8. What behaviors are important in my room? Trying your best? Following directions? Staying on task? Helping others?
9. What motivates my students to do their work or behave appropriately?
10. How are discipline issues handled in my classroom? What is the result of this strategy?
11. What makes my classroom special and unique—what are students likely to remember 20 years from now?
12. Other than academics, what are three things I hope my students learn from being in my class?

# BRAIN BREAKS

Brain breaks have been all the rage for quite some time now. We've learned that regularly incorporating short movement activities into the instructional day not only allows children to get their 'wiggles' out, but energizes them and increases their ability to focus on the next learning activity as well. Perhaps your typical go-to brain break activities are getting a little old. Let's utilize the technology we have to give the kids a healthy dose of pop culture and silliness all mixed into one. So, smack up one of these short clips on your SMART Board or Promethean Board and get to steppin'! These videos are sure to get your students (and maybe even you) moving and grooving!



[20 More Brain Break Clips](#)



[Breakouts To Energize Brains and Boost Achievement](#)

Click on these links!

## Elementary Examples:

1. Simon Says: It's a classic and students love it!

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2. Crab Walk around the Room: Put on a song and have students walk in the CRAB POSITION around the room. At some point, have students go in reverse.

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3. Macarena: Teach students the hand movements for the old-school song! You can find the song for free on YouTube.

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4. Ants Go Marching: Most kids know this children's song. Play the song and let the kids march around the room at different speeds...Slow-motion march, fast march, etc.

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5. Cupid Shuffle: This dance isn't just fun at weddings! You can find the song and dance on YouTube. It may take students a few tries to learn it, but you will inevitably have a natural dancer in the group that can help other students learn.

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6. Doodle Time: Give students some blank paper and markers and let them DOODLE and talk for five minutes. It sounds simple but students love to draw and doodle.

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8. Tic-Tac-Toe: Give students some blank paper to play tic-tac-toe with a friend. It's a simple game that won't cause a mess or a distraction for your neighbors!

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9. 50 Jumping Jacks: Get students' heart rates up with this QUICK physical exercise.

## Secondary Examples



### ✓ “Minute to Win It” Games

★ Balance: students walk around the room balancing paper plates on their heads. Add things to the plates to make it more challenging.

When the plates/objects fall, student is out.

★ Water-Bottle Toss: Students take turns throwing a half-full water bottle on a table. Object is to get the bottle to land standing up.

★ Noodling Around: using only a single spaghetti noodle held in their mouth, students attempt to pick up six penne noodles. If the spaghetti breaks or the student uses their hands, they are out.

LINK



### Core Strength Brain Breaks

⇒ FORWARD and BACKWARD CIRCLES

⇒ Airplane

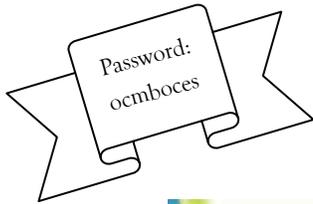
⇒ Don't Fall

Click on the image of the video to view the it and get the directions to these activities. It is the February 2nd blog post.

#### Additional Resources:

1. [http://www.cascaeducation.ca/files/proAstro\\_payattention.html](http://www.cascaeducation.ca/files/proAstro_payattention.html)
2. <http://theteachergarden.blogspot.com/2012/02/brain-breaks.html>
3. <http://theteachergarden.blogspot.com/2012/02/brain-breaks.html>
4. <http://www.buzzle.com/articles/minute-to-win-it-game-ideas.html>
5. <http://www.minds-in-bloom.com/2012/04/20-three-minute-brainbreaks>.

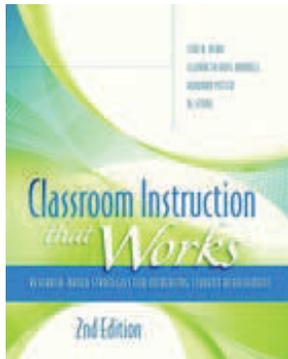
# Professional Resources



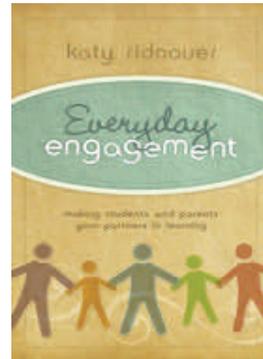
Click Here!



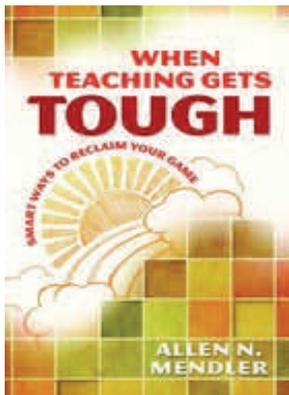
[Gale Virtual Library...FREE RESOURCES](#)



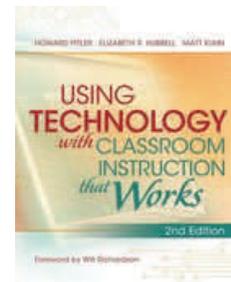
This book draws on the research and developments of the following decade to reanalyze and reevaluate the teaching strategies that have the most positive effect on student learning.



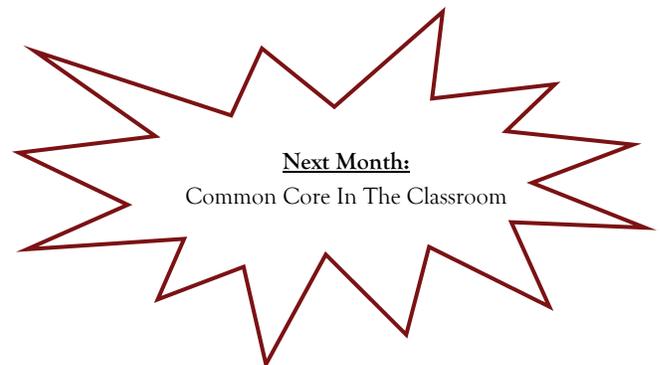
This book focuses on the potentially overwhelming, sometimes puzzling, often delicate work of engaging both students and parents in the pursuit of learning and achievement.



This book offers practical strategies teachers can use to help reclaim and sustain energy and enthusiasm for teaching.



Presents new educational tools that support research-based instruction, and learn new ways to use educational technologies, such as word processing and spreadsheet applications, multimedia, data collection tools, communication software, and the Internet.



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