

## Seven Things Effective Teachers Do EVERY Day

1. Effective teachers **prepare, prepare, prepare**. Their lesson plans are detailed. They never wing it. You never hear an effective teacher claiming that he/she doesn't need lesson plans. And you never see an effective teacher using the same plans over and over, year after year.
2. Effective teachers **treat every student with respect and dignity**, every day. No matter how the student acts, effective teachers remain professional, realizing they are the adults in the classroom. No one is ever treated in a disrespectful or undignified manner by an effective teacher.
3. Effective teachers **smile**—a lot. They know that students are in need of positive role models. They greet their students every day—making their classrooms feel welcoming and inviting. They smile during conversations with students. And they smile often while teaching. They convince their students that there is no place they'd rather be than in the classroom, teaching, every single day.
4. Effective teachers **are good actors**. No one always feels happy. No one always feels professional. No one loves every moment of every teaching day. Effective teachers simply use their acting skills to appear as though they do! They don't allow their personal moods or problems to spill into their professional lives.
5. Effective teachers **remain calm and composed**, especially in tough situations. They draw on those acting skills just mentioned. They realize that when conflict meets calm, it is more effectively resolved. Therefore, the more out of control a student is, the more in control the teacher must be.
6. Effective teachers **have clear rules and procedures**, and they adhere to these every day. They are consistent. The students know what to expect, and the parents know what to expect—so there are rarely any surprises. When people know what it is you expect, they are much more likely to do what it is that you expect them to do. Period.
7. Effective teachers **teach from bell to bell**. There are no "lulls" in their classrooms—times when students find themselves with nothing to do. Idle time invites misbehavior. In the classrooms of effective teachers, it is difficult for students to even find time to misbehave. The teacher keeps the students so engaged that the class is over before they know it!