

Seven Things You Can Do to Be a More Effective Teacher Tomorrow

1. **Greet students** every day, every class period. Effective teachers stand at their doors with huge smiles on their faces (regardless of their personal moods) and welcome the students into their classrooms. The students feel as though these teachers are happy to see them every day. That one action heads off many potential discipline problems!
2. **Do things in small bites.** Take one of your lessons that you've already planned and add one activity that will make the lesson more engaging for the students. Don't change all of your day's plans or activities. Just take one and make it better. Add another tomorrow and another the next day. Soon, you'll automatically be planning better, more engaging lessons and activities on a daily basis.
3. **Ask for ideas** from others, and give one new idea a try. Effective teachers are always borrowing ideas from their coworkers. Don't be afraid to ask for new ideas because you fear appearing incompetent. On the contrary, you'll look more competent—as everyone knows that effective teachers are constantly asking others for ideas and sharing their own ideas with others.
4. **Revisit your management plan.** Make sure everyone knows what to expect from today forward. If, by some chance, you've not been clear and consistent with your management plan, that's okay. Start over today. Become clear on your expectations, share them with the class, and begin implementing your plan on a consistent basis.
5. **Tell your students why you love teaching.** Convince them that you are happy to be teaching them. Effective teachers often express, to their students, why they love teaching and why they chose this profession. If the students believe you love what you're doing, they'll be more likely to "buy" what you're "selling."
6. **Teach even more enthusiastically than you normally do.** If you want to be more effective instantly, appear more enthusiastic. Even if you're normally an enthusiastic person, act just a little more enthusiastic today. The teacher's attitude really does determine the overall climate of the classroom.

7. **Get feedback from your students.** Ask how they feel about your class thus far, and solicit ideas for making the class even better. Effective teachers make an effort to give the students lots of ownership in the class and how it's run. It doesn't mean they do everything the students suggest, but they do listen to their students and entertain their thoughts and ideas for making the classroom environment one that is optimal for learning and growing.

All poetry in this book is the original work of Annette Breaux.

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