

Starting the Year with Rules and Classroom Procedures

Because Early Childhood students are generally non-readers, I use visual aids to help convey many of the rules that I use in Physical Education. I adapted many of these visuals from the Physical Essentials Curriculum, authored by Kathy Ermler and Joella Mehrhof from Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas.

Below you will find a description of several of my classroom visual aids that I used during a game to help students learn the various characters and what they stand for.

OOPS and DAISY - These ducks are used as a self evaluation tool. DAISY represents a day that a student is satisfied with (listening, following directions, getting along with others, working hard, staying on task, etc.) and OOPS represents a day that a student might need to make improvement in these kinds of areas. Students touch one of the two ducks at the end of the class period. If they touch OOPS, they need to understand what behavior made it an OOPS day and verbally express how they will change their behavior to make it a DAISY day the next time they attend class. Occasionally, a student may touch between the two ducks if they feel their day was so-so. That is his choice.



Inspector Respect - His motto is "Respect yourself and others." The emphasis is on appropriate choices so that you do not interfere with the right of others to learn.



Topsy Turtle - His motto is "Try your hardest."



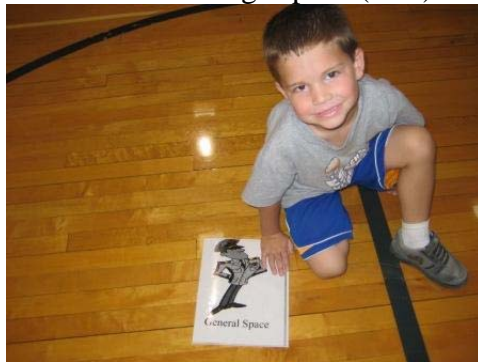
Shoo Fly – This fly reminds students not to tattle. When they start to do so (or I can see them coming towards me with a tattle) I quietly sing “Shoo fly don’t bother me a tattle tell you should not be.” Initially, I talk with them about the difference between telling (the purpose is to help) and tattling (the purpose is to hurt or get someone in trouble). I try to encourage problem solving between the students involved.



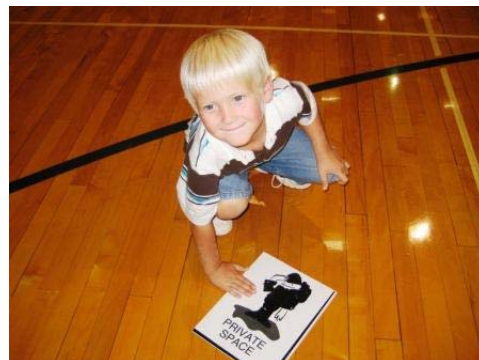
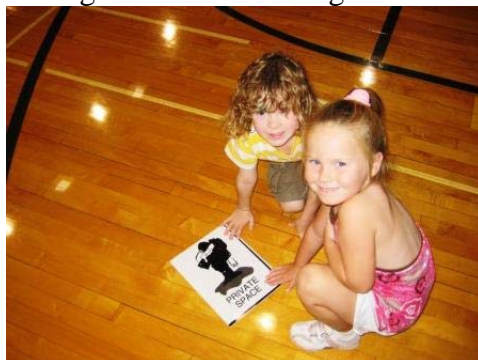
Happy Hearts – This symbol reminds students to treat one another with kindness and to make an effort to be a friend to all.



General Space - This is the large space (area) that the class is working within.

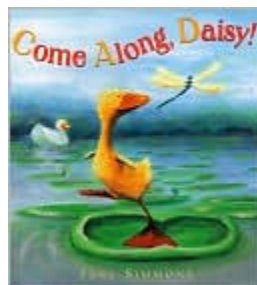


Private Space - This is the small space (personal space) that each person places around himself/herself that allows working without interfering with others.



The First Class of the School Year

Because many pre-school children are starting school for the first time and a new teacher or a big gymnasium can be intimidating, my first class of the year is held in their classrooms. I begin by introducing myself and reading a very short book entitled, "Come Along Daisy," by Jane Simmons. This story is about a baby duck who does not listen to her mother well. I wear a duck hat, bring a beanbag "Daisy," and wear my quacker. When I am done reading the book, I explain to the class that I will be the mommy duck during the school year and they will be my ducklings. When they hear the sound of the quacker, they are to come quickly to the mommy duck. The children enjoy my many different duck hats and laugh when they hear my quacker. We move around the room in different ways and practice listening for the quacker and gathering at the mommy duck.



See another picture below.

I also take time to talk about how students will self evaluate themselves each day in Physical Education. They learn all about “Oops” and “Daisy” and take a turn touching one or the other. I also have a duck stamp that I place on each student’s hand. We always finish our class with the fun cheer, “Hooray for a Daisy day!”



I hope you have a Daisy Day, too!

