

Advice from Veteran Teachers

Enjoy reading the wisdom of experienced teachers on how to become an effective, caring teacher. Our top 15 tips work for all kinds of situations and ages of students. New teachers will find this resource particularly valuable when they're getting ready to take control of one of their first classrooms.



Keep a sense of humor!

Stay organized, be flexible, and document everything.

Mariella Brenlla

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- Don't be afraid to apologize to your students when you have made a mistake.
- Realize that the lesson plan is just that – a plan. Remember, we make plans every day of our life but rarely do we carry them out 100% of the time.
- Get a good night's sleep every night.
- Read, read, read as much about the teaching profession as you can.
- Join a professional organization.
- Write your name in permanent ink on the front of everything you own in your classroom. Teachers are notorious for borrowing something of interest and then forgetting where they got it from.
- Don't let your teaching job become your life! Of all the professions in the world, teachers could easily work themselves to death because so much in this world can be used to teach our students.

Henry Gail McGinnis



Take the time to get to know your students.

It's amazing just how much you might accomplish when you get to know your students on a personal level. When you stop caring, it's time to move on.

Mylina Stanfield



You can't do it all at once.

Be sensitive to your own needs and temper your drive to succeed with moments for milk, cookies, and a good book. Renew your reasons for teaching as often as possible. It will always bring you back to the pleasure of a toothless smile when something difficult has been achieved! Remember the fuel for your day; smile, smile, smile.

Lois Accardi



There are three things that come to mind....

1. Where the bathrooms were all located.
2. Never tell the kids how old you are.
3. Never, EVER, be SUPER NICE when disciplining a kid.

Anonymous



Buy a large scrapbook.

When a child gives you a school picture, make sure they sign and date it. Then, place it in your scrapbook along with a brief note to yourself to help you remember that student. You will never regret taking the time to keep it updated.

James Gates



Leave your personal problems at the door.

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They can help you enormously! They are the most valuable assets in the school; treat them well.

E. F. Pool



Memorize and learn the students' names, first and last, before they arrive!

It is very important to start off your school year with knowledge. Know your students' name, write them on name cards and assign them a seat so you can also memorize them in order.

Doreen Travis



Accept help whenever it is offered.

Find as many ways as possible to praise students because that is what they respond to the best.

Wendy DuToit

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- that the deep trembling all the way down to my toes would eventually go away before the first period was over.
- that the kids were more apprehensive about the teacher they were getting than I was about them.

Shaeza Haniff



A simple, kind word or smile means everything to a child.

Take time to listen to your students and give them adequate time to share. Trust your instincts and judgments.

Sue Ritchie

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If you want quiet, expect it the first day. If you want meaningful interaction throughout the year then make sure you have it on the first day. Give students the respect and guidelines they need. Make sure they know what you expect of them from day one and the rest of the year runs itself.

Diane Shortall

Grade Levels: K-2

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