

Love and Logic Tips

1) Only give choices that you can be incredibly happy about. Kids need to believe (whether it's true or not) that your life will go on and you'll be happy no matter what choices they make or how sad you are for them.

2) ALWAYS lead with **genuine** empathy. "Oh, I am so sad that you didn't get your assignment done." Then follow by giving the problems back. "What are you going to do about that?" If they give suggestions, encourage ones that are their idea and don't cause a problem for anyone else. If they don't have suggestions, ask if they would like to hear what others have tried. Then, only give suggestions that are options you would be happy with. They may or may not like your suggestions. Simply say, "I know you can figure it out, let me know what you decide."

A conversation could go something like this:

"Oh John, I'm so sad that you didn't get your assignment done on time. That must be really disappointing."

"Ya."

"What are you going to do about that?"

"I don't know."

"Would you like to hear what other kids have tried?"

"I guess."

"Some kids would just forget about the assignment and take an F. How would that work?"

"I don't want to do that."

"Some kids would ask the teacher if they could get half credit if they turned the assignment in tomorrow."

"Nah."

"Some kids would make sure they wrote the assignment down so they don't miss it next time."

"I don't like those, what else you got?"

"You know, I think that's all the suggestions I have but I know you'll figure something out. Let me know what you decide." And walk away or go back to what you were doing.

3) Approach from the rear and whisper in the ear! Never embarrass them in class or try to get into an argument in front of others...you will lose every time!

4) When a student is misbehaving in class, start out small and work your way up. "Do you think you can get yourself together at your desk or would you like to try getting yourself together in the chair in the back of the room?" "There is a chair waiting for you in Mrs. _____'s room until you get yourself together. Come back as soon as you can." "Would you like to sit in the chair in Mrs. _____'s room or the chair in the office?" "Do you think you can walk to the office on your own, or do you need someone to come get you?"... Always ask the question and walk away, giving the **assumption of compliance**. Once you have made your rounds through the classroom, if the student is still not doing what they are supposed to,

move on to the next choice and walk away giving them the chance to choose without arguing. Repeat the process until they comply or are forced to comply.

5) Pick a class leader who you can trust to lead the class out of the room if the student refuses to comply with the above scenario. Explain how it will work to the chosen student ahead of time. Simply say, "It's time" to the person you have chosen. Have the chosen student lead the class on a mini field trip while an administrator or proctor comes and get the disruptive student out of the classroom. If the difficult student is still not cooperating and tries to follow the class, have the leader take the class to the office and drop him or her off. Make sure you set up a plan with the office, Nancy or Jeff, a proctor and another teacher before you implement it. This may take a lot of time that day, but will save you time in the long run because the student will realize that his/her behavior will not work on you.

6) Always speak from your perspective. Tell what you will do not what you want them to do. Use lines like, "I listen to people who don't whine/are respectful." "I will be happy to help you as soon as you can be respectful." "I pass students on to 5th grade when they get passing grades in my class." "I talk to people when their voice is as calm as mine." "I grade papers that are turned in on time/by Friday." "Papers in this basket will be graded tomorrow. Papers in the other basket will be graded over summer break." (They will realize that this last option means their papers will be late and they will point this out. Simply say "Good observation". Or "good thing you have a choice.")

NOTE: Enforceable statements, like the ones above, work well on parents as well.

7) If you want to talk to the student about their behavior, do it in calm waters when he or she is acting appropriately. You can ask them to come up with solutions of what he/she would want you to do when he or she misbehaves. This has the potential to backfire though, as they may not hold up their end of the bargain. Have a back-up plan for such a situation.

8) **Remember that you have choices also.** You can choose to allow them to upset you or not. Always smile! Try not to let things bother you. Most things are not worth fighting about or getting upset over. If you give lots of little choices and let them win the battles, you can win the wars.

9) NEVER ask or tell them to do something that you have no control over, like "Sit down right now!" "Leave this classroom now!" "Stop talking." If they are capable of *not* doing what you want them to do, they will take advantage of that.

10) Try to find something every day for 2 weeks to notice about the student that has nothing to do with their academic performance "I noticed that you really like purple, I noticed that." "I noticed that you are a really good listener to your friends, I noticed that." "I noticed that you really like to read, I noticed that." See after a couple weeks if their whole demeanor starts to change.

11) Give as many choices as possible but only ones that you can live with and allow them to choose which ever they would like. "Billy, would you like to do the assignment now, or would you like to get a drink of water and do it when you come back?" "I noticed that you're

feeling frustrated, would you like to try to count to ten or take a walk around the courtyard?" "Would you like to turn your assignment in today or tomorrow?"

Never give choices only after they have argued with your original decision. This shows them that they can manipulate you.

Giving a lot of choices in the little things allows you to have more control over the big things.

12) Because not everything is worth fighting over, let some things go. An effective way of doing this is using one-liners. "Nice try." "Love you too much to argue." "Aren't you glad I don't believe that?" "Probably so." "Could be."

For example:

"It's not fair! Mrs. Jones never makes us do that!"

"Could be."

"I can't do my work because I'm not smart enough!"

"Aren't you glad I don't believe that?"

"But I don't want to do math right now!"

"That's probably true."

"Can't we do it later."

"Love ya too much to argue."

13) Read "Teaching with Love and Logic"!