

## **Managing Anti-Social Behavior Conference Reflective Analysis**

The managing anti-social behavior (MASB) conference was an excellent professional development opportunity presented to the student teachers in the Anderson Community School Corporation. The conference focused on anti-social behaviors, classroom management and how to be an effective teacher. The two part seminar was beneficial to me as a teacher and many of the ideas presented are applicable to my current classroom or future classrooms. There was a plethora of information presented at the seminar which was inspiring and motivating to me as a teacher.

I currently have several students who, I believe, exhibit anti-social behaviors. I was able to identify these students as having anti-social qualities because the information at the seminar explained what this type of behavior looks like in the classroom. I was able to learn about these behaviors and some possible solutions for these students. When I returned from the seminar, I began thinking of how I would help these students. I talked with them about their behavior and also tried to remind them of the rules. For one particular student who talked out and consistently disrupted the class, I told him that he was only allowed two questions per day and if he had more then he could write them down and ask them at a convenient time. This has been working for him and he has been self-monitoring his behavior.

During the seminar we discussed the difference between rules and procedures. We also discussed their importance in the classroom. I neglected to emphasize these in my classroom prior to the seminar. The day after I returned for the first seminar session, I review the rules and procedures of the classroom. The students found this helpful and

they were able to revisit what is expected of them on a daily basis. Since I have done this, the students have been following the expectations and procedures more consistently. I was surprised at how much impact a five minute discussion over rules and procedures helped the classroom environment.

Rewards, consequences, reinforcement and punishment were several topics that were covered during the second seminar session. The information that I learned during this portion of the seminar was directly applicable to my classroom. Since that seminar, the class has been operating on a points system. I implemented this system because I felt that the students were lacking motivation and did not feel that they were being rewarded for their efforts in class. After talking about rewards and consequences in the seminar, I designed a points system for the whole class. It has proved to be an effective motivator because the students are monitoring themselves and encouraging their classmates to have good behavior. The students are learning about delayed gratification as well because they have to work towards the end reward. This is one of the most beneficial things that I learned from the seminar.

Aside from learning about management techniques and strategies, I learned something about myself as a teacher. I learned that I tend to fall into the trap of giving too many beta commands to students. I give long, excessive answers and it has little impact on the students. I realized in the seminar that I should try to shift more comments to the alpha style. The alpha commands are difficult for me to master, however I am trying to be more conscious of how I answer questions and give directions. I am trying to be more direct and to the point with the students. This has been a challenge because I feel that

alpha commands are abrupt, however they have proved to be more effective than beta commands and they save a lot of time and energy.

The MASB conference was an incredibly helpful opportunity for professional and personal growth. This experience allowed me to re-evaluate my teaching and make improvements. I was able to learn about how to better help my students and manage my classroom. Since the conference, I have noticed a sizable difference in the behavior and attitudes of my students. The information that I learned at the MASB conference will remain with me throughout my professional career.