

Creating and Teaching Rules

Performance Learning PLUS #32

Visualize your ideal classroom.

Clearly focus on what you would like to have happen in your classroom. What are the actions you would like to see, the sounds you would like to hear, and the feelings you would like to have? Pay particular attention to the behaviors you would like to observe your students doing. List all of these behaviors, then put a star next to the ones you consider most important. Write the letter K, T, A, or V next to the behaviors to indicate which sensory style preference relates to the behavior. Use this list of behaviors as the basis for your rules. (Note: You may choose to sit quietly and close your eyes to do this activity.)

Write five rules.

Your rules structure the learning environment by defining the behaviors that are necessary for learning. If you haven't already done so, list the student behaviors you consider most essential for learning. Next to each behavior, write a rule that guides and supports that behavior.

Create a lesson plan.

Decide how you can best teach and practice each of your rules, capitalizing on students' interests, wants, and needs. The steps listed below incorporate all of the sensory styles and are an effective lesson format:

1. Tell the rules emphasizing key words.
2. Show the rules using visual aids.
3. Explain the benefits of the rules.
4. Practice the rules thoroughly.
5. Discuss the rules, bringing out students' thoughts, ideas, and concerns.
6. Review and reinforce the rules often.

Source: The above concepts are based on William Haggart's *Discipline and Learning Styles: An Educator's Guide*, the newest book in the School Support Series. To purchase, contact the PLS Bookstore at 800-506-9996.*

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