

Challenging and Defiant Students



Every teacher has met or will meet the angry, hostile child. Understanding the reasons for his defiance is necessary to help him – Understanding ways to meet his defiance is necessary to help you. You can't hit him/her. You can't shoot him/her. Your only choice is to pray to ask for guidance from your heavenly father and try to learn how to cope with him/her.

This child appears to distrust people – it will be your job to help him/ her to trust you. The first conference won't be easy. *Don't give up.* When you talk with him, explain that his behavior disrupts the class. Let him know that such behavior can lead to serious consequences and that you want to help him avoid this.

- Be friendly
- Don't bawl him/her out
- Be genuinely interested in him/her
- Find out all you can about him/her
- Be sympathetic, and try to understand why he/she acts that way



Mean while, back in the classroom, if the aggressive behavior continues:



- Be firm but be kind – consistent in enforcement
- Praise good behavior in public and in private.
- Show trust in him y giving him responsibility the he/she can handle
- Isolate him/her from the rest of the group
- Spell out the consequences of poor behavior... follow through

Talk with his/her parents. Get all the help you can – the principal, the school psychologist if you have one, and other teachers. You will need more conferences with the child. Then add it up! Look at the whole picture. Is his behavior related to a certain time, a certain class, or a certain person? Use what you have learned.

Administration and Tips

If his/her conduct continues to disrupt the class, remove him/her quietly, matter-of-factly, from the room in accordance with your school's policy. Remember; don't lose your temper or your patience. Don't give him the satisfaction of having created a big issue or a big scene. Do it as calmly and routinely as possible.

Don't be disillusioned if you did not succeed in changing his behavior. It took him/her a long time to get this way and it may take him/her a long time to change. You may have helped him/her more than you know.

