

DIDACTIC TIPS IN THE CLASSROOM

MUST HAVES

Get acquainted

Make sure to stay in touch with the children as much as possible. For instance, think of questions up front that you can ask the children and really take your time to get to know them.

Positive attention

Make sure to have a positive attitude. Let the children know why you are participating in the project and why you like it so much. Make sure to give each child positive attention and appreciation, so their confidence and self-esteem grows. The children must become intrinsically motivated and the easiest way to get there is to make them feel important, appreciated and seen.

Responsibility

Give the children a lot of responsibilities and explain when something can't be done. Be clear and specific. Explain to the children your own logic, explain why something can or can't be done, so they'll understand the reason and therefore better understand and accept the decision or alterations. By giving the children a very clear and specific role and responsibility, they will be extra proud of the result and discover that they can change the world!

PRACTICAL TIPS

1. Get talking! Ask the children one on one about hobbies, interests etc.
2. Create bonding moments. A bonding moment does not always have to be a nice conversation, 5 minutes of playing soccer or doing a chore can be enough.
3. Dare to be vulnerable. Children can feel it when you are not being sincere or honest.
4. Get to know the names of the children. A helpful tool could be to ask the teacher beforehand for a list of names so you can look through it already and remember better. You can also use nametags.
5. Appreciate input and ideas and give lots of compliments!
6. Try to ignore negative behaviour as much as possible and reward positive behaviour by giving that child attention.
7. Give the busiest children their own task, for instance keeping track of time or gathering materials.
8. Make agreements (not rules) with the children and write them down on the board. Let the children come up with these agreements on their own by asking questions like: If you want to say something in class, what do you do?
9. Be consistent in your attitude towards the children. Children remember a lot, certainly about correcting behaviour.
10. Speak loud and clear without yelling. Dare to let there be silence and don't try to 'overshout' a restless, busy class.