

Excerpts from a speech given in by Bert Simmons at the National Conference of Texas Administrators

You have to learn how to use foggers. There are five of them – “I understand”, “I see”, “uh, huh”, (silence), “thank you for sharing”. Because anytime that you describe behavior to people when it is happening, you’re going to get some kind of response that’s negative. You have to understand that! I would never say to somebody who walked into my class late, “You’re late”. He will react negatively. You see, I don’t respond to kids when they come in late. I always talk to them the last few minutes of class. Let me say that again, “You don’t describe the behavior when it happens – you talk to the student about it later”!

Great teachers recognize there has got to be a relationship between a student and a teacher. Kids forget what you taught them, but they never forget how you treated them. Remember to say to yourself often, just to stay focused, “I teach kids”.

Great teachers understand what teaching is all about. They:

- ▶ Have a mission
- ▶ Are proactive not reactive
- ▶ Take an interest in kids
- ▶ Have problem solving skills
- ▶ Do not take excuses from kids
- ▶ Put kids first (not the bulletin board)
- ▶ Give respect to get respect
- ▶ Work as a team with other teachers
- ▶ Have expectations and never go away.



HOT TIPS

Say what you mean and mean what you say.
Never say anything you cannot back up.

Use a paradoxical response to avoid an argument:

Student “This class is stupid!”
Teacher “It certainly can be at times.”

Words to avoid when talking with parents

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| ▶ Trouble | ▶ Problem |
| ▶ Worried | ▶ Upset |
| ▶ Angry | ▶ Annoyed |
| ▶ Tired of | ▶ Sick of |

**Always Express
CARING and CONCERN**

Teacher’s Creed

- ▶ Stopping me from teaching for any reason whatsoever
- ▶ Stopping another student from learning for any reason whatsoever
- ▶ Doing anything that is not in your best interest or the best interest of the class.