



Calm and Consistent

Sue Cowley, Getting the Buggers to Behave.



“If you’re calm and don’t engage in an argument, the other children take their cue from you”

My Context

Supply teaching

Resources and Cost Required

No cost, lots of effort!

What I Wanted to Improve

I’m good at appearing calm but actually supply teaching is the complete unknown. If I know I’m going to a certain school I can get panicked and talk quite quickly. Probably have low tolerance. Some way to be calm and consistent without having to come down like a tonne of bricks.

What Would Success Look Like?

1. Behaviour won’t get in the way of learning.
2. Children will know what I expect in terms of behaviour.

How Did I Approach It?

- I learnt pupils’ names quickly.
- I outlined consequences very clearly - “you can choose to do this, or choose to do this and this will happen.”
- Speaking calmly at all times.
- Positivity - “you can still improve your behaviour in this lesson”.
- Reward good behaviour as much as possible.
- Deal with each pupil in the same way.

Results and Conclusions

Success criteria	What changed?	Why?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behaviour won’t get in the way of learning • Children will know what I expect in terms of behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive. Some children won’t learn everything, but you get in as much input as you can without. Some behaviour did get the way of learning. • Positive. As a supply teacher you have to be more strict with expectations. Have to make it clear. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you get challenging children, other children feed off their behaviour. If you’re calm and don’t engage in an argument, the other children take their cue from you. • Really calm and consistent. You’re going in to deliver learning - commitment to that.

Overall Rating and Recommendation



Would recommend. Worked to help the EAL pupils in my class and helped the others too.

This strategy was a reminder constantly at the back of my mind, as we do need reminding to stay calm, especially when doing supply with really difficult children in very deprived areas.