

Ten Secrets to Dealing With Difficult Children:

- 1a. Provide consistency by following a daily schedule that alternates active and quiet activities before children get bored!
- 1b. Follow a lesson plan that consists of much more than just the teacher-directed art activity or worksheet for the day.
2. Provide plenty of fun and interesting play and learning centers in your classroom. (Time out is even less effective if they aren't missing anything anyway!)
3. Keep children so busy that they do not have time to misbehave!
4. Always tell children WHY they are cleaning up, why they are lining up, etc. Tell them what is next so they have a reason to cooperate!
5. Teach children to use their words to solve their problems instead of hitting, grabbing or having a tantrum. Have them parrot back to you: "Jordan, can I have that puzzle after you?" "Jennifer, you are hog-dogging the play-doh. Give me half!"
6. Learn about the ways children learn and incorporate them into your teaching style. Only 20% of children are auditory learners. If you only talk when you teach and fuss when they misbehave, 80% of them are missing it!
7. Empower children by teaching them to be self-sufficient. Helper charts allow children to experience success and to feel like positive leaders in the classroom. Why are they watching TV while you set the table for lunch? Why do you only choose the best behaved children to help?
8. Get away from the art table! A Free Art table with paper, crayons, markers, age-appropriate scissors, odds & ends, glue and construction paper scraps should be a regular center in your classroom.
9. Teach children what TO do instead of what NOT to do.
10. Get YOUR act together. You can't teach self-discipline if you haven't mastered it for yourself.