

Behavior Management Tips – Talking Out

1. **Establish Classroom Rules** – Create 4 to 5 positively stated rules that link back to the schoolwide behavioral expectations.
 - a. Ensure rules are posted in the classroom where students can see them, and the teacher can readily point them out.
 - b. An example of a rule that would be useful for when students are talking when they should not be is, “Use voice level as set by the teacher.”
2. **Use a Voice Level Indicator or Stop Sign Indicator** – Use a voice level indicator or a stop sign indicator in your classroom to prompt students to have appropriate voice level given the context of the learning.
 - a. Explicitly teach the students the voice level indicator, give examples of what each level sounds like, and have students practice.
 - b. Explicitly teach the stop sign indicator and have the students practice by having them talk and then show the stop sign (indicating to the students that they need to stop talking).
3. **Reinforce Students** – Depending on which prompt you use (i.e., voice-o-meter, stop sign), develop a classroom reinforcement system.
 - a. *Reinforcement System for Voice Level Indicator* - Reinforce your class when they are consistently using the correct voice level as indicated with minimal reminders.
 - i. Identify 4 or 5 times each day spread across consistent intervals that you will reinforce your class for consistently using the correct voice level. Consider setting reminders on your phone to remind you to provide the reinforcement.
 - ii. If the students have consistently used the correct level for that time frame, provide classroom reinforcement (e.g., point, marble in a jar, classroom token). Consistently means that you have not had to remind them to lower their voices multiple times (e.g., three or more).
 - iii. Work towards a goal with the students (e.g., a certain number of points or level in the marble jar). Have students pick out beforehand what they are working towards (i.e., reward).
 - b. *Reinforcement System for Stop Sign Indicator* – Reinforce your class when they stop talking after the stop sign indicator is used.
 - i. When students are talking to each other when they should not be you can pull out the stop sign, indicating that they need to stop talking.
 - ii. If the students stop talking within 5 seconds of pulling out the stop sign, then provide classroom reinforcement.
 - iii. Work towards a goal with the students (e.g., a certain number of points or level in the marble jar). Have students pick out beforehand what they are working towards (i.e., reward).