

Disciplining Advice

C.A.R.E

1. **Consistency** – What does this mean? It means not punishing your students for something that you didn't punish them for in the past. It also means **letting** behavior slide that you let slide before. **Inconsistency** will cause insecurity in your child which can play out in two ways – fear and anxiety, or rebelliousness. With these children you will most likely experience the latter – the child constantly testing your anger threshold. Right off the bat show them what is acceptable and what is not, and stick with it.
2. **Appropriate Behavior** – What is appropriate and acceptable behavior in your classroom? This will of course depend on you as the teacher. The only caution I'd like to give is on being *too* authoritarian. Be mindful of their age and remember what kind of child **you** were back in the day. It's ok, even encouraged, for the kids to have fun in your class so don't smother that sense of joy by, for example, stifling all non-classroom related chit chatting. If it gets out of hand and impairs your ability to lead the class, then of course you must do something about it. But if you can give your students an opportunity to be excited - perhaps a regular time of fellowship and games in the last 10 minutes of class - your students can look forward to that and you will have a new **weapon** to keep them quiet during the actual teaching.
3. **Respect** – You must respect every single one of your students. Here comes the cliché: ***If you don't give respect, you won't receive it.*** This is too true with these kids. You must not label in the classroom a certain child as this or that (the trouble maker... the slow one...). When you discipline a certain child do not punish and forget about what happened after the class is over. Be sure to take him aside, away from his other classmates (respectfully) and explain to him why you punished him. The simple act of explaining yourself and then showing him that your affection has not waned because of his bout of disobedience, will in time cause him to obey you more and more.
4. **Empathy** – Discipline is never easy for anyone – neither the one giving it nor the one receiving it. But as adults, we must realize that these particular children are **not** like normal children with two parents and a solid family identity. Their behavior (especially after discipline) can be shocking in that they may seem ***much more hurt*** and bitter than you would usually expect. Understand that they have not been raised in consistent discipline, and certainly not with **loving** discipline. Even the discipline doled out by their dorm mothers may not be out of love, but necessity (to prevent fighting, to maintain a clean environment, to keep up appearances.) Many times the newer dorm mothers are unable to discipline because they have simply given up caring. These are simply **not** their own children, and most of them do not plan on continuing to work at the orphanage for more than a year or two tops.

JM's tips for non-Korean speakers...

1st Strike: Warn the child (Instruct him/her to stop what he is not doing)

2nd Strike: Warn again, but this time tell the child you will call his/her dorm mother if they are disruptive again.

3rd Strike: Find a staff member (preferably a dorm mother) and have them discipline the child. The children will respond first and foremost to those that show them the most attention, and that is usually their dorm mother.

Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. – Proverbs 23:13

Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul. – Proverbs 29:17

Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him. – Proverbs 22:15