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# My Classroom Management

**A cooperative, responsive approach**

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## Working Together

From the very first days of school, I work WITH students to build a relationship of mutual trust and respect. Based on my background and training in progressive education, Montessori, Social Emotional Learning, Mindfulness Education, and Responsive Classroom, I lay a foundation of expectations of both the students and myself.

### Laying the groundwork

In the beginning of the year, my number one goal is for all students to feel a sense of belonging and pride in their place within the community. In order to feel that, the community must be formed.



Students feel safe, supported and respected. They must feel that they can count on procedures and routines that they understand and predict. The classroom itself is tidy, open, warm, inviting, and not visually over-

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stimulating. Students can sit in small assigned groups, rather than isolated from each other. A circle area with comfortable spots for everyone indicates that we will all look to and listen to each other when we meet each day.

I take time to get to know each student as an individual and to help them get to know each other. In the beginning, we set goals for ourselves as learners (myself included). We brainstorm classroom guidelines. We frame these in a positive way and publish them.

When students are acting in an unexpected way, I respond individually and effectively. I explain why a behavior might be disruptive to learning and engage the students in redirection. I am always working with students to give them tools and moving them towards independence and self-reliance.

