
Introduction

This book was written for all the teachers who struggle with difficult students. It offers a powerful program of strategies that can be used in the classroom tomorrow. Each strategy has been classroom tested and can provide the control teachers desire. Teachers implementing the processes outlined within these pages will be able to increasingly enjoy their passion for teaching. Every new teacher can benefit from this book.

How can this occur? Students are a lot like horses. Through many years of working around horses, I have met individuals known as horse whisperers. Through their gentle yet firm persuasion, difficult and dangerous horses become manageable and productive.

This collection of interventions, strategies, and methods is dedicated to all the educators I call the student whisperers. They are the true champions who have survived the most challenging situations students have thrown at them. They are the educators who have learned how to maintain their calm in the face of adverse situations. They are the ones who have managed to use a gentle yet firm approach when they wanted to scream, run, and cry.

To those who have figured out the balance between classroom management and academic excellence—you are the true student whisperers.