

# Introduction

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**T**his book began as a class project in a behavior management course at San Jose State University for special education teachers. The teachers were asked to create or adapt an activity that they used to help with classroom management. The conditions for the assignment were fairly basic: make certain the activity is something you or any teacher can implement, that it is easy to understand, and that the consequences, if applied, are reasonable and respectful of students. A template was developed to aid the students in writing up their activity. The activity was peer reviewed and then given the stamp of approval by the instructor. What seemed like an easy activity proved to be quite challenging for the teachers/students. They often commented that although they used a particular behavior method almost daily, it was difficult to explain it for other teachers to use. Using fewer words to convey the essence of the selected behavior activity without sacrificing intent or content was the greatest challenge. The activities listed in Part II have been through several iterations with much editing on the author's part. The activities then went through another layer of scrutinization and editing from a seasoned special educator, Pam Eiriksson.

By no means are these activities the last word regarding classroom management. They are meant to pique an educator's interest with the hope that one of the activities will be implemented or adapted. Along those lines, it is the author's intent that educators will share the book and photocopy activities for other educators or parents to use.

We would all love to have the perfect, well-behaved classroom ...but does it really exist? There are days when you as the teacher are not feeling in top shape and there are days when individuals in the class are out of sorts too. I have found it comforting to know that I have a behavioral system in place that helps to see me through those days when I don't feel up to dealing with misbehavior. You probably have students in your class that despite your earnest efforts, high expectations, respect, and clear requirements still haven't quite tied in with the class. They are students that need more support to function successfully in class. The following activities are great examples and ways to encourage positive individual and whole-class behavior. Pick the activities that are right for you and your class and try them out. Modify them to fit your style, use them as a base to create your own, or use them as is. Enjoy this great resource!

—Pamela Eiriksson  
Special Education Teacher of 10+ years  
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## BOOK ORGANIZATION

The book is divided into two parts. Part I titled *Proactive Teaching and Empowering Students* provides teachers with general classroom operating principles for establishing and maintaining classroom control. It goes beyond the mechanics of classroom management by offering time-tested ideas and strategies to enhance self-esteem in students. Part I creates the context for many of the activities suggested in Part II. The ideas in the first section encourage teachers to be proactive and students to take responsibility for their actions and feelings. Vignettes highlight some of the concepts included in this section by grounding the ideas in scenarios that teachers encounter daily. Ways to deal with overactive students or students identified with attention deficit disorder (ADD) are also covered in this section.

Chapter 6 details *Nine Features for Effective Classroom Management and Student Empowerment* and is aimed at helping teachers with day-to-day classroom management. This chapter appeals to teacher sensibilities by providing practical ideas and techniques to empower both students and teachers. For example, Feature 2 in this chapter helps teachers with a simple data collection process, and Feature 6 describes how classroom meetings empower students to be more cognizant of their behavior in order to take responsibility for their actions.

Part II lists *Activities to Promote Positive Classroom and Student Behavior* and is chock full of teacher-friendly activities to promote an enhanced classroom environment. The activities are separated into five categories from lower elementary through junior high school. The following checklist gives the teacher a snapshot of activities allowing them to choose any one, or several, activities that fit their individual style. You will notice activities that you have seen in use at your school or variations of familiar activities and, of course, some new ones to pique your interest.

## QUICK GLANCE AT PART II: ACTIVITIES TO ENCOURAGE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR

Activity	Grades K–2	Grades 3–5	Grades K–8	Grades 6–8
“2:45 p.m.–3:00 p.m.” Store	X	X	X	
Accomplishment Journal	X	X	X	X
Achievement Chart				X
Achieving the Spirit of Academic Excellence				X
Adventures of “Regie”	X	X	X	
All Smiles	X	X	X	
Assignment Jar				X
Author/Scientist Chair		X		

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Grades K-2</b>	<b>Grades 3-5</b>	<b>Grades K-8</b>	<b>Grades 6-8</b>
Beebe's Bucks				X
Boost for Homework	X	X	X	
Brain Food	X	X	X	
Bravo Point System	X	X	X	
Campus Stewards	X	X	X	X
Caught Being Good	X	X	X	
CEO's				X
Chance Tickets	X	X	X	
Characters	X	X	X	
Choose a Card	X	X	X	
Classroom Store	X	X	X	X
Colored Cards	X	X	X	
Earn the Activity of Your Choice	X			
Fun Friday Choices	X	X	X	
Giving Positives	X	X	X	X
Good Group Award	X	X	X	
Group Points		X		
Homework Pass	X	X	X	X
Individual Rewards	X	X	X	X
Kill the Curiosity				X
Kind and Caring Tickets	X	X	X	
Large Group Rhythm	X			
Large Group Singing	X			
Lender Binder		X		X
Long Journey Home	X	X	X	
Look at Me				X
Lunch With Teacher	X	X	X	
Marbles in a Jar	X	X	X	
Mr. Steven's Bucks	X	X	X	
Name in the Heart Box	X	X	X	
Number Club	X	X	X	
Olympics				X
Pass Challenge				X
Pay Well to Those Who Play Well	X	X	X	
Pizza Challenge		X		X
Popsicle Sticks	X			
Privilege Auction	X	X	X	X

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<b>Activity</b>	<b>Grades K–2</b>	<b>Grades 3–5</b>	<b>Grades K–8</b>	<b>Grades 6–8</b>
Question Box	X	X	X	X
Red Light–Green Light	X	X	X	
Resource Points				X
Self Talk	X	X	X	X
Sharing the News	X	X	X	
Sharing Time	X			
Show 'n' Tell	X			
Smiley Faces	X			
Soapbox				X
Stamp Your Way to Good Behavior	X	X	X	
Star of the Week	X	X	X	X
Star Jar	X	X	X	
Stars, “Dollars,” and <i>La Tiendita</i>	X	X	X	
Stickers for All Seasons	X			
Stickers on Paper	X	X	X	
Stoplight	X	X	X	
Surprise Money				X
Table of the Week	X	X	X	X
“Teacher” Dollars		X		
Teacher’s Shop	X			
Team Leaders	X	X	X	
Thank You Cards	X	X	X	X
Thermometer	X	X	X	
Thumb Prints	X	X	X	
Tickets	X	X	X	
Unit Log/“Table of Contents”		X		
VIP Passes				X
Wall Map		X		
Watch Me Grow	X	X	X	
Weekly Grid		X		
Without a Raffle	X	X	X	
Yellow/Blue Sheet Rewards	X	X	X	X