

Teaching Social Studies and Classroom Management Philosophy

Teaching social studies consists of civics, government, economics, culture, and history along with many other components. Social studies is about creating relationships within your classroom which is why it also ties into classroom management. Responsive Classroom strategies as well as B.F Skinner's model will create a positive environment in my classroom for all subjects including social studies.

Children need to have interactive and hands on experiences whenever it comes to social studies. When learning about civics and government, I can use lesson plans that include students using mock debates and elections, role playing, creating their own classroom rules, or running for a class office. Teaching civics in the classroom is as easy as establishing a well known definition of how we treat our peers and our teachers which can come from the implementation of the Responsive Classroom. Civics and government can easily be integrated into history with having students learn about other countries as well as our own and what it meant to be a civic citizen during different times in different places.

Economics is a great component to integrate into math curriculum. I will be able to set up class stores and assign class jobs to teach students about what specific roles arise in a community. Economics ties in great when talking about money and value of coins and dollars. I will use this as an opportunity to teach students about production and consumption and allow them to participate in simulations to deeper their understanding. This component allows students to take part in dramatic play and take new perspectives which is important in their development, especially at a young age. Bringing in guest speakers including parents, specific job holders in the community, or volunteers is very helpful when introducing students to economics.

I plan to implement the teaching of culture in my classroom every day. Being able to identify my own cultural bias and reflect on those will enable me to create a bias free classroom. Allowing my students to share their own cultures will be a part of my classroom and I can implement this through morning meeting, star student, allowing for a multi-cultural curriculum, and providing materials in my classroom that relate to all different cultures. Involving myself in the community that I am teaching in and learning about it's specific culture will aid itself in my creation of a culturally diverse classroom. Knowing my students as individuals, where they come from, and who they are as individual learners will be very important in my classroom.

A very efficient and creative way of integrating all aspects of social studies is through Responsive Classroom as well as B.F Skinner's model. Responsive Classroom was developed by the Northeast Foundation for Children. The goals of a responsive classroom is to establish a calm, orderly, and safe environment and help children develop self-control. With Responsive Classroom, children become contributing members of a democratic community which is the goal of social studies curriculum. Healthy and kind relationships are promoted through morning meeting, greetings, appropriate discipline, and social-emotional learning. Through my support of Responsive Classroom, I will ensure that there are rules with logical consequences, organized play, guided discovery, family involvement, classroom organization, and academic choice in my classroom. B.F Skinner's belief that human behavior can be positively shaped by an application of reinforcements will also be put into practice in my classroom. I strongly reinforce positive behavior, creative learning, and motivation in my classroom. I agree that students behavior will not reach a level and simply stay there, but that we have to reinforce the child and be their to support them through all academic, social, and emotional challenges.

Overall, I will be able to integrate social studies into many different subjects as it is a component of learning that does not stand alone. One way that I will be able to do this is through effective classroom management that involves the creation of a classroom community.