

## EMPATHETIC APPROACHES: NURTURING POSITIVE BEHAVIOR IN STUDENTS

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Schools have been caretakers of different breeds of learners.

To handle different kinds of learners based on their behavior is challenging for an educator, but it is a window for teachers to see situations with a positive outlook and growth.

Handling these students with care, empathy, and understanding is crucial. You need to recognize where these students' behaviors come from and what underlying factors cause them to act that way. Students' frustrations, attention-seeking problems, or personal issues can be recognized well. Instead of calling them 'naughty,' constructive criticisms may be used to address these behavioral problems better.

As teachers, we need to establish expectations and boundaries. Positive reinforcement might be classic, but it remains the most effective way to correct and discipline behavior. If our learners know their boundaries set by our expectations, he/she may think of the consequences he/she may encounter when not met. Also, when we communicate well with these students and mutual respect happens, their sense of ownership and responsibility will grow.

Lastly, we need to identify our students' individual needs as everyone is born to be unique. If we can understand their differences, know their strengths and weaknesses, and be able to poke their interests, we can gain positive valuable insights that can be manifested by their behavior. As we earn their trust and confidence, behavioral change will follow.

Overall, a balanced approach to handling different behaviors of students individualizes them. We must see that this behavior that may sound negative is a cry for attention and can be handled with care and empathy. One must remember that the key to a change of heart is understanding and empathy.

*References:*

Banks, Tachelle. (2014). Creating Positive Learning Environments: Antecedent Strategies for Managing the Classroom Environment & Student Behavior. Creative Education. 5. 519-524. 10.4236/ce.2014.57061.