

Department News

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

Our first round of professional development is now complete. We accomplished quite a lot in just a short time. Not only did we go over curriculum and setting up a daily schedule, but we also covered the two new department initiatives, embedded content writing and running records.

For the next round of PD, we will be working on additional instructional practices that will enhance literacy instruction in your classroom. We will be covering topics such as Guided Reading, Close Reading in primary grades, and 6 Traits writing strategies.

CALL FOR PRESENTERS!

Concept is calling on all of its talent to present best practices and ideas at the PD day events. There is an honorarium pay for the presenters according to the following pay structure:

- Individual presenters: \$250 per 1 session, \$400 for 2 or more sessions
- Team presenters (up to 2 people): \$200 each person per 1 session, \$100 each for additional

Each break out session is 50 minutes long and estimated to have 20 to 30 attendees. If you are interested, please submit a proposal to this link:

<https://goo.gl/XNP4CA>

RESOURCES, RESOURCES, AND MORE RESOURCES!

At the end of September, I will be sending out an e-mail blast asking for all of you to send in any projects, worksheets, power points, etc. you have created. The goal is to start adding resources that you are all hard at work creating to a cache so we can add all of the resources as attachments to the units for the 2016-2017 school year.

Start keeping a file and you'll be ready to send your creations over! Remember, for every resource you send (worksheet, activity, etc.), you'll have your name added to a drawing for a Teachers Pay Teachers gift certificate!

Free?!

DAWGEARED Teacher Resources

This is webpage that has links to 13 different downloads for teachers to help get you organized. I love the Peek at the Week organizer as well as the set of graphic organizers.

<http://dawgeared.com/13-free-planner-pages-and-resources-for-teachers/>

Teacher Toolbox Tutorial

Now this is amazing! Melissa at Learning Lab Resources created the most adorable labels you can print and then attach to those multi-drawer units that you can purchase at Home Depot or Lowe's (or even Amazon!)

Complete her project and you'll have a best place to store post-its, Band-Aids, and binder clips

<http://www.learninglabresources.com/2013/07/teachers-toolbox-tutorial.html?showComment=1374248930923#c3108798127254831676>

Teacher Discount!

Big businesses are starting to realize that teachers are HEROES! The link takes you to a site that lists 100+ places that offer discounts to educators like you! Note: This site references the International Teacher Identity Card. This card is \$25 online but there's a lot of discounts (\$5 off \$50 at Target.com!)

<http://www.bestcollegesonline.com/blog/2012/12/18/100-stores-that-give-a-teacher-discount/>

Contact Information:

Jennifer Sajovec

Director of Elementary Education

<http://elementary.conceptschools.org/>

sajovec@conceptschools.org

847-824-3380 Ext. 246

Love and Logic: Simple Tips to Improve Classroom Management

By Jennifer Sajovec

One of the best books I have ever read was suggested by my own kids' preschool teacher. The book *Parenting with Love and Logic* was a breath of fresh air. It helped me realize discipline doesn't have to be the struggle. It gave me such an Ah-ha! Moment, I just had to read Jim Fay's education book called *Teaching with Love and Logic*.

You can get the book from Amazon as used but here is the link to the Love and Logic site where you can purchase a new copy.

<https://www.loveandlogic.com/teaching-with-love-and-logic>

9 Essential Skills for the Love and Logic Classroom

1. Neutralizing Arguing
2. Delay the Consequences
3. Empathy
4. The Recovery Process
5. Develop Positive Relationships
6. Set Limits with Enforceable Statements
7. Use Choices to Prevent Power Struggles
8. Quick and Easy Interventions
9. Guide Students to Own and Solve Their Problems

It would take me pages and pages to cover each of these skills so let's talk about the two of the best strategies where you'll see the most leverage.

NEUTRALIZING ARGUMENTS

Teaching is an emotionally draining experience. It doesn't always have to be though. Here are some quick tip on how to neutralize arguments with your students.

1. Go brain dead. Yes, we mean it. It will do no good to reason with a student who wants to argue or even worse! Think of something else. Plan your outfit the next day or retell the plot of a great movie you just saw---in your head. Engaging with someone who is in a state of panic (that's what tantrums are) can actually fuel the emotional state of the child. Here is a great description of what brain dead means and

looks like:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BwhuW5pN9tQ>

2. Pick a one-liner. Boy, it's hard to know what to say when you are faced with an angry or upset child. You can continue to neutralize the situation with just a simple (very simple) phrase you repeat over and over again until it's clear to the student you will not engage in an argument. My one liner is "I'm just not going to argue with you right now." Imagine the look when you just keep saying it over and over and over.
3. Schedule a time to argue. It seems silly but a simple phrase such as "We can schedule this argument for 12:15 or 3:00. What time works best for you?" Now, be serious about your statement; sarcasm will only add fuel to anyone's fire. By picking up the "argument" at a later time, everyone will have a chance to cool down. Chances are that this appointment will never actually take place!

USE CHOICES TO PREVENT POWER STRUGGLES

Human beings (even little ones) have a strong need for control. How many times a day do you catch yourself saying things like "I asked you to sit down and get to work." How many times are those "requests" ignored? That response is just a little one exercises his/her need for some control.

Love and Logic suggest give kids the power of making a choice. No, L and L doesn't say to let the student choose to work or not work. Simply give the student two choices, both choices you are equally pleased with.

Here's the example:

"Would you like to work on the assignment here at your desk or would you like to sit at the table to work on it?" In each choice, the student is going to get to work. He/she just gets to take some control by deciding where.

Stay tuned to future monthly newsletter for more Love and Logic strategies to use in your classroom!