If Only It Was So Easy

Once while I was in a second-grade classroom, a student stopped me and said, “Mr. Finger, you’re lucky to be the principal.” I asked him why he thought this.

“Well,” he said, “You get to walk around the school all day and do nothing.”

Brian A. Finger, Principal
Gayman Elementary School
Doylestown, Pennsylvania

A Slight Misunderstanding

Upon reviewing my discipline referrals, I discovered that Leon, normally a well-behaved student, had several referrals to the time-out room. After questioning him about this change in behavior, he revealed that his mother had been in the hospital having a baby and he missed her very much.

He went on to say that his mom would be home soon and she was going to the dentist so she wouldn’t have any more babies. “Yep,” said Leon, “My mom’s gonna have her teeth tied!”

Margaret Beck, Principal
Thomas Jefferson Magnet School
Utica, New York

Politeness Counts

An essential element of our school culture is to empower our students with the skills and strategies to mediate and resolve their personal challenges with other children in a positive and respectful manner. Pursuant to this goal, I was attempting to help a student work through a conflict in which he told another child to shut up.

I asked, “How would you handle this situation in a more positive way next time?”

The student thoughtfully contemplated this question and enthusiastically responded, “Next time, I’ll say please shut up!”

Lowell W. Biller, Assistant Principal
Washington Elementary School
Kingsport, Tennessee

Keeping Titles Straight

One day in the cafeteria, I leaned down to help a kindergarten student who was having trouble opening his milk container. He looked up at me and said, “I thought Mrs. Philpott was the princess of the school.”

“She is,” I responded. “And I’m the assistant princess.”

Mary Lou Yeatts, former Assistant Principal
Mt. Olivet Elementary School
Martinsville, Virginia

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