

Seven Things Effective Teachers DON'T Do

1. Effective teachers **don't yell at or intentionally humiliate** students. Ineffective teachers are often heard raising their voices in a desperate attempt to regain the control they so often lose. They also tend to do things like calling on students who are not paying attention in an attempt to embarrass them. Such approaches never breed positive results, so effective teachers don't engage in this type of futile behavior.
2. Effective teachers **don't gossip**. Gossiping about others can only serve to harm others. It's never a good thing, it never helps anyone, and it should never take place in a school setting. Effective teachers are not overheard gossiping about students, parents, or anyone else.
3. Effective teachers **don't take student behavior personally**. They realize that they are the adults; they are the professionals. Students will say and do inappropriate things at times, and sometimes those things are directed at the most readily-accessible adult—the teacher. But effective teachers know that the second they allow students to push their buttons, the students have taken over. So even when their buttons may get pushed (on the inside), they never allow students to know this. Their outward behavior is always that of someone in control. Not “controlling,” but “in control.”
4. Effective teachers **don't rely on others to handle problems that could be handled in class**. They handle every problem themselves, unless the problem is something that absolutely must be brought to an administrator's attention. If it CAN be handled in the classroom, it IS handled in the classroom!
5. Effective teachers **don't play the blame game**, blaming parents, society, the administration, or others for challenges in their classrooms. They know teaching is challenging, and they welcome those challenges as opportunities for growth—growth for them and growth for their students. Less effective teachers act as though their hands are tied and that until society changes, parents change, and their administrators change, they are helpless to make a difference in their classrooms.
6. Effective teachers **don't stop learning**. It is simply not possible to master the art of teaching and to finally learn everything there is to learn about teaching. No one has ever done it, and no one ever will. The day you're not learning something new about teaching is the day you should probably

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exit the profession. Effective teachers realize this, and they never stop learning to teach.

7. Effective teachers **don't give up on any student**. No matter what a student does, says, or does not do, effective teachers have no "stopping point." They don't throw their hands up in the air and say, "I give up." They actually believe that every student is capable, and they treat each student that way. Students know that these teachers will stop at nothing to help them succeed and that giving up is simply not an option.