

Teaching Kids Grades 3-5



Kids are people too!

Students are people too! If you treat them with respect and kindness, they'll respond.

If you are excited about what you are sharing, they will be too.

If in doubt, just ask! Kids are also wise and can help you find the answer!



Be concrete.



8-10 year olds do not make abstract connections easily. If you are trying to share complex ideas, you will be more successful if you use concrete analogies.

Break down concepts into smaller pieces and, again, tie them to real world experiences that the children can easily relate to.

For example, tie architectural ideas to Minecraft (which every kid has played!).

Physics concepts are easily paralleled by experiences on the playground and sports fields.



Again, children are wise. If you don't have a comparison, describe the concept and ask the kids. They'll draw one for you.

Tell Stories

Children love stories. Tell one as often as you can.

If you can share concepts through stories (especially true ones), they'll be remembered. Stories about personal experiences also help the students connect with you more easily.



Kids have short attention spans.

Kids can only attend to lecturing for about 10 minutes at any given time. Break up your lesson and only talk for short periods. We old people get boring after that....





Be Hands-on!

Kids learn what they do.
Build it! Cut it! Feel it!

To really motivate curiosity
and engage the imagination,
let the students actively
participate!



Let Kids Share

Ask kids questions! Use words like -
'why' or 'what might happen if' -

Encourage imagination and detail. It's
surprising how insightful students can
be!



Have them write!

Give the students something to do while you're talking. Try a note taking sheet or a graphic organizer. It helps focus attention and makes listening relevant.



In Conclusion...

Kids respond to respect and enthusiasm.

Kids are concrete thinkers.

Tell stories.

Break up your lectures into short segments.

Provide hands-on activities.

Engage students in questioning and conversation.

Have kids write!

And... most importantly... ENJOY YOUR TIME IN THE CLASSROOM!

