

42. GIVE ME THREE

★ **PURPOSE:** establishing classroom rules and routines

★ **AGES:** 5-11

★ **TIME:** 5-10 minutes, depending on number and age of students

★ **MATERIALS:** poster board, bold marker, age-appropriate illustrations

PREPARATION

Choose three common behaviors that you want to reinforce in your classroom. Choose specific behaviors such as *Eyes on the Speaker* or *Listening Quietly*, as opposed to general concepts such as *Do Your Best*.

Create a chart that lists your three behaviors, printed in large enough letters that they can be read easily from the back of the room. Include the number for each behavior. Use drawings or symbols to illustrate each element (such as a big eye, an oversized ear, or an animal with giant ears).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS

1. I'd like to discuss something important with you called Give Me Three—these three things will help me do my best teaching and help you do your best learning.
2. Number 1 is _____. This is important because _____.
3. Number 2 is _____. This is important because _____.
4. And number 3 is _____. We need to do this because _____.
5. Thank you very much for listening so nicely. As we go along, if I need to remind you of one of these three important behaviors, I'll just say the number. That way, we won't waste any time.

FOLLOW-UP

Include at least a brief explanation for each element of your chart. Even young students prefer rules that are based on logic.

Then immediately begin using your chart, referring by number to the behavior you want to see. If you are giving instructions and somebody is chatting to a friend, simply say, "Jeremy, number 3, please." Continue with your instruction, pausing only to say "Thank you" when Jeremy complies. (In most cases, students will comply because being reminded by number feels more like guidance than a reprimand.)

VARIATIONS

Add one or two more elements (such as keep your hands to yourself) for Give Me Four or Give Me Five. Limit your list. More than five items will dilute their importance. Revise language and rules to use this activity with older students.