

The Substitute Teacher's Behavior Management Survival Guide*

By Charmaine at chocolateforheteach.com

Extreme + Urgent Behaviors

Behaviors

Any action that compromises safety of the student or others. Examples: Fighting, chair throwing, weapon possession, etc.

Substitute action

Diffusing the unsafe situation is of primary importance. Call right away to inform about the behavior and get the student potentially removed from the room. Who to call: Behavior specialists, admin members such as assistant principal, or the neighboring teacher in a pinch.

Extreme + Non-urgent Behaviors

Behaviors

Threats, theft, possession of contraband like drugs, some vandalism.

Substitute action

Report this behavior to a member of the administration team as soon as possible. Defer to school and district protocol.

General Classroom Behavior

Layers of Behavior Management Strategies for the Substitute Teacher



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For the remainder of student behaviors, I use the strategies in this graphic starting at the base layer. (I go into more detail on each of these strategies in my [article](#).) Sometimes these alone are sufficient to guide positive classroom behavior. I move up a level (Extrinsic motivators for the whole group) if needed. This includes motivating with [whole-group rewards](#) or consequences. If I need additional help, I move up to the final layer, Extrinsic motivators for individuals. These can be individual rewards or consequences. I've listed free and easy rewards in this [article](#), and some commonly used consequences [here](#).

*Always defer to your school or district protocol. These tips are based on my experience only.