

Why Are My Students Misbehaving? Checklist



For students who misbehave ask yourself these questions?

Basic Needs	Yes	Maybe	Don't Know	No
Are any of their basic needs lacking?				
Physical				
Food				
Clothing				
Shelter				
Safety (personal safety at home or at school)				
Health (health problems or medical conditions)				
Basic economic means (money)				
Mental				
Learning				
Growing				
Stimulation (are your lessons interesting?)				
Power (control/influence over their lives)				
Recognition				
Fun				
Ego food (from success and achievement)				
Social				
To have positive interaction with others				
To belong				
To love				
To be loved				
Spiritual				
Sense of identity - knowing "who you are" and what values are important to you				
Sense of purpose				
Sense of direction				
Making a contribution				
If any of these needs are lacking can you help the student to meet them?				

Goals of Misbehaviour	Yes	Maybe	Don't Know	No
Is there a goal of their misbehaviour? If so what is it?				
To get attention				
To usurp power (control) from the teacher or the peer group				
To get revenge (to hurt others because they are hurting)				
Assumed disability - they believe they have no ability so they don't want to do any work (and fail again)				
Is your reaction to their behaviour helping them to achieve their goals? eg1, assumed disability: if you send a kid outside are they happy because they don't have to do any work? eg2, power: if you send a kid straight to the deputy are you saying, "I can't control you myself"?				

External Factors	Yes	Maybe	Don't Know	No
Could there be external factors or other reasons for misbehaviour?				
Under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.				
Medical conditions.				
Adverse effects of certain foods in their diet.				
Lack of social skills - have not been taught how to behave appropriately.				
Lack of self discipline.				
A group dynamics problem - see "The Problem Class" checklist.				

Conditioning Students To Behave Well	Yes	Maybe	Don't Know	No
Are you conditioning students towards good behaviour?				
Do you work at building a good relationship with this student?				
Do you reward good behaviour with "pleasure?"				
Do consequences for misbehaviour lead to "pain" - discomfort, loss of privileges, or something the student doesn't want to do?				
Do they realise that what they are doing is actually wrong or inappropriate?				
Have they made the connection between what they do and their particular emotions at the time?				

This document is an excerpt from the 'Behaviour Management Toolkit' by David Koutsoukis

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