

Classroom Management Strategies for Program Instructors

Your classroom management can make or break the experience for you and your students. Having good strategies to engage and redirect your youth can help you prevent burnout and establish a safe and comfortable learning environment for your students! In this document you will find:

- Different attention getters to help engage students.
- Ideas for getting your students moving and ready to learn.
- Claps to praise their participation and efforts.

Attention Getters

When you need to get the attention of your Girl Scouts, use any one of the call back style attention getters below! It's always best to introduce the call back the first time you use it. The more often you use them, the more familiar they will become with the practice. Teach them by first saying the phrase **“When I say ... You say ...”**. For example, **“When I say GIRL, you say Scouts!”** **Call Back:** “GIRL” **Response:** “SCOUTS” Do that a few times and then when you're ready to use it, you can **drop the “When I say... You Say...”** Try some of these today or get creative and make your own!

Call back	Response	Motion
Girl	Scouts!	Girl Scout Symbol
Mona	Lisa	Sit like the Mona Lisa
All set?	You bet!	Thumbs up; kids give thumbs up
Macaroni Cheese	Everybody freeze!	Freeze pose
Hocus Pocus	Everybody focus!	Bring hands to eyes and look through them like binoculars
Flat Tire!	Shhhhh!	Raise finger to face and shhh
If you can't make a mistake	You can't make anything!	
Hands on top!	That means stop!	Place hands on head
To Infinity	And beyond!	
Waterfall, waterfall	Shhhh, shhhh	Waterfall fingers from head to waist 2x
Dino, dino	Roar, roar	
Doggy, doggy	Wag, wag	Squat and shake your tail like a happy puppy.

Alligator, alligator	Chomp, chomp	Extend your arms out in front of you, one raised above your head and one below, like your opening a large mouth. Palms facing each other chomp or clap your hands together twice.
A hush fell over the crowd	Hush!!	
A teddy bear fell over the crowd	Plushhh!	
A toilet fell over the crowd!	Flush!	

Want to try to get their attention in a fun, QUIET way? Try Motion Copy!

Quietly stand in front of the class doing movements until they start to copy you.

- It’s helpful to start with large movements to get their attention, and stand where most everyone can see you. Then start to move in smaller tighter motions that eventually get them sitting at their desk nicely.
- Making eye contact with them and parts they should be moving is a helpful nonverbal hint.
- Use proximity to your advantage and encourage your class to participate.

Get Moving

Does your class have a case of the wiggles, or need some redirection? If you notice your Girl Scout Youth come in a bit rambunctious use some of these techniques before or during your lesson as needed to provide opportunities to get the wiggles out and refocused!

Do the Wave!

- The classic wave from your favorite sports games. Its fun, lets them move, cheer, and work together.
- Consider making it a short game by doing it a few times; changing the flow of the wave.

Shake It Out!

- 5 shakes of each (right hand, left hand, right foot, left foot)
- 4, 3, 2, 1 (continue with numbers until you reach 0)
- Consider reciting a fun chant or playing some music to accompany if not to intrusive. “Shake it up! Do doo doo do doo do doo. Shake it Up”

Wind Up!

- Have a friend wind you up and walk back to your seat like you’re a wind-up toy!

Sequence Touch

- Before sending your Girl Scout Youth off to their seat or excusing them for a task ask them to touch (select a number) of (select a color) of things before sitting down and high fiving a friend.
- Example: Touch 4 blue things! Give 3 air high fives!! And then make 1 circle!
- For COVID purposes you can modify using “air touch” or “air high-fives.”

Praise Claps

