500+
Teaching Tips for Really Good Teachers

Compiled by Brandi D. Jordan
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Teaching is one of the most challenging, stressful, time-consuming careers a person can choose to pursue. It is filled with long hours, weekends spent grading papers, few breaks, and more paperwork than one would think possible. District cuts, fewer resources, and ever-changing curriculum are everywhere. Teaching is tough.

Yet, teaching is one of the most rewarding career paths on which one can choose to embark. Forever changing the course of children’s lives with lessons and love, teachers make their mark on history through the students they teach. Kindness, compassion, and overwhelming dedication to the children keep them coming back despite challenges. It is a calling, a passion, a life’s work to be a teacher. Teaching is an honor.

When we asked Really Good Teachers across the United States and Canada to share their best teaching tips with us, it was no surprise that they gave their all. Throughout more than 900 submitted responses there was a common thread. Remember, they said, that teaching is about the children—not the paperwork, the tests, or the time. Teaching is about the children.

Whether you are considering teaching as a profession, entering the classroom for the first time as a teacher, or a veteran who has seen enough changes in education to last a lifetime, the more than 500 teaching tips in this e-Book are sure to inspire you. They may change the way you feel about classroom management or give you a new way to teach struggling students. You may discover much-needed reassurance that you are not alone or laugh out loud at an all-too-true suggestion. No matter where you are on your teaching journey, there is wisdom to be found on the pages within. May it inspire you to continue to be the amazing teacher you are. Teaching is all about heart, and you have that in abundance.

Acknowledgement
This book would not have been possible without the thoughtful advice and contributions of the Really Good Teachers who entered Really Good Stuff’s It’s Going to Be a Really Good Year! contest in September 2013. Their teaching tips spoke not only of their passion and dedication, but also of how committed they are to helping one another succeed. As Teacher Regina Tanksley said, “Teaching is not an island,” and the quantity and quality of advice we received proved that. Our deepest gratitude goes out to all of you. Thank you!
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Behavior & Classroom Management

1. “Take time to establish expectations and routines in the classroom. This will help everything else fall into place.” –Margaret Alfaro

2. “Go slowly in the beginning of the year so you can go faster later on. Take the time to teach and re-teach all those procedures and expectations (multiple times) in the beginning, and the rest of your year will go much more smoothly.”
   –Kris Stewar

3. “Build community in your classroom, and have high expectations of everyone, including yourself!” –Lija Rago

4. “No matter what age, treat your students as people. Don’t try to be too ‘bossy.’ I’m not saying you should be their ‘friend’—absolutely not! But if you treat students with respect and let them see that you’re not perfect, you’ll be amazed at what you can get them to do.” –Susan Flynn

5. “It’s far more productive to praise the student who is doing the right thing than to correct the one(s) who aren’t. It also leads to a much happier atmosphere in the classroom. This is simple to say, but more difficult to consistently do.”
   –Judy Rachow

6. “Allow movement and talk time with your students each day. They will respect the time when they need to be quiet more if they know they can get their wiggle/talk time in.”
   –Michelle Maddox

7. “Establish the rules the first day, and stick to them.”
   –Tara Young

8. “I teach middle school, and my best advice is to treat them like they are adults and not children. I have gotten the best responses from students who tell me they appreciate not being talked to like they are still a little kid.”
   –Amy Fisher

9. “Take a few minutes to check out the Whole Brain Teaching Web site. Just watch a video or two. It has changed my teaching world!”
   –Christen Stokely

10. “If you take time to teach routines and procedures at the beginning, there will be good classroom management and fewer behavior problems.”
    –Angelica Siller

11. “Remember that all kids’ behavior makes sense...if you can just find out why! All kids want to be good, we just need to spend a lot more time teaching some of them what that looks like!”
    –Rebecca Lacefield

12. “When children act out, remember, they are young, but people with feelings, too. They may not be able to control their behavior. Don’t take it personally. Tomorrow is a new day with a clean slate.”
    –Debbie Reinier

13. “Students follow your tone and your intentions more than your words. Remember, you are modeling behavior even more than teaching facts. Find joy every day.”
    –Rachel Selig

14. “Take the time up front to teach and master all classroom management techniques.”
    –Jessica Reinartz

15. “Teach your students with respect—respect to them and to you. That may be the only time of the day they get that lesson.”
    –Martha Franco

16. “Share your expectations, model them, and repeat! Eventually things will click!”
    –Huda Alnasir
17. “Positive praise is the best way to reinforce desired behaviors and eliminate call outs.”
   –Janice Farland

18. “Be firm and establish routines at the beginning of the year. It will make the rest of the year easier, and you’ll be able to spend more time teaching.”
   –Anne Winiarski

19. “In regard to classroom management: It is better to lose/use more time at the beginning of the year establishing routines and expectations in order to save time later in the year. Communication with parents is essential to student motivation and success. Keep things positive, and reward good behavior and quality work!”
   –Haleakala Anakalea

20. “Listen before reacting.” –M. Key

21. “Have a strong discipline policy from day one.”
   –Kay Staebler

22. “Remember that a kid is still a kid, no matter how grown up he/she wants to act. Give them a chance to be a kid, and you’ll remember why kids are so amazing.” –Rebecca Stutzman

23. “Use classdojo.com for behavior management.”
   –Betsy Barr

24. “Remember to trust in your students. They can teach you as much as you can teach them.”
   –Amy Levi

25. “An organized classroom with routine expectations will help things run smoothly all year long. Also, for nonreaders, use visual cues, pictures, etc. to label where things belong so students can help keep things organized.”
   –Deborah Snyder

26. “Take the time to build community at the start of the year, and your class will take care of each other. Go slow to go fast!” –Pamela Hoadley

27. “Routines, Routines, Routines! Put them in place early, and keep them in place the entire year. Reinforce (often) and they’ll fall in line as quick as a wink!” –Tammy Basset

28. “Keep it real. Students have enough adults in their lives who are not always honest. As teachers, we are also learners, and my best learning has often come from my students.”
   –Geniese Ligon

29. “Build a sense of teamwork in the classroom. Students really respond to it. It can open the lines of positive communication and respect.”
   –Christina Lipari

30. “Success breeds success. If a child feels that he or she has succeeded, that child will work harder and have better self-esteem.” –Beth Benson

31. “Find a way to laugh every day. Kids are funny, and teaching should be fun!” –Susan Bird

32. “Have more than a few classroom management techniques up your sleeve. Remember to laugh with your students and find the humor in even the most stressful classroom moments!”
   –Carrie Blackmar

33. “Every paper does not have to be graded every day!” –Deb Rudtke

34. “Set up your classroom routines and expectations during the first week of school. Use engaging activities to help you teach them. Spending the time in week one will help you to set up a successful classroom for the whole year.”
   –Linda Boland

35. “Motivate your students to always reach for the stars.” –Frinzetta Boman
36. “Build positive relationships with all of your students right away. Even your toughest students will work for you and with you when they like you and feel respected!” –Dawn Boudier

37. “Be positive with your students! Always look for the strong points of each individual child, and keep expectations high.” –Marcia Brackin

38. “Set expectations early, and be consistent. If the kids know what you expect, the routines, and the rules, you can accomplish so much more. This needs to be done from the beginning and reviewed often. Always start back after holidays or other breaks by reviewing everything again.” –Cheryl Brown

39. “Go in strict, because it is too hard (almost impossible) to become a more strict teacher. It is always easier to relax with the students after they know your expectations.” –Christina Brown

40. “Assign your students a letter or number. Lining up [in alphabetical or numerical order] is a breeze, and this helps when on a field trip or fire drill. Even kids as young as kindergarten can learn their letter or number.” –Cindy Burks

41. “Learn to manage your classroom before anything else!” –Alice Burruss

42. “Greet your students with a smile and a “Good Morning” at the beginning of each day to let them know they are welcome in your class.” –Lisa Cantwell

43. “A good way to reinforce skills and cut down on work is to have the kids grade their own papers. Use highlighters so answers aren’t changed.” –Maggie Capriola

44. “Always remember to have a student-centered classroom. You will find true success as your students will always yield the results you expect.” –Tonya Troup

45. “Classroom management is key. Reinforce those procedures from day one. Make the management system manageable for you, and keep expectations for the children high.” –Elizabeth Conover

46. “Never yell at your students. It is much more effective to speak in a lower voice or to almost whisper. You don’t want to be known as the teacher who yells all the time. Your reputation travels amongst students and across grade levels. Changing a reputation is harder than establishing the one you wanted from the beginning.” –Amanda Cook

47. “Model, model, model when teaching primary grades! Always be organized and prepared!” –Jennifer Cooper

48. “Establish your classroom rules from the start, enforce them, and be fair to all of your students.” –Terri Stauffer

49. “Smile!” –Andrea Cosma

50. “Never raise your voice at a child.” –Vanessa Gusick

51. “Teach rules and procedures from day one so that you don’t have to teach them all day every day.” –Sunshine Downs

52. “Make sure you really drive home the rules and procedures. Without showing students exactly what you want and how to do it, centers and other activities can be a nightmare.” –Carole Davis
53. “Lessen the confusion and noise when lining up by taping cards labeled with each student’s name and/or number on the floor. Use cute shapes such as bees, and have a Bee Line, or use stars, and call it a Star Track. Students know.”
   –Christine Webb

54. “Prompt communication and positive discipline with kids is the key to that wide educational gate.” –Nesrine Sleiman

55. “Get to know your students and establish trust.”
   –Rachel Carpenter

56. “Never give up on any child. Call their parents. Find someone in the building with whom they can connect. Hold them accountable. Things can change. You are their lifeline!” –Kristen Foster

57. “Every child is different. You can’t put them in a labeled box. Take time to get to know them, and you will learn the most effective way to teach them. If you have 20 students, you have to be 20 unique teachers.” –Jennifer Nolen

58. “Always wear a smile and tell the children how proud you are of them. Let them be kids!”
   –Thelma Tobe

59. “Make each and every member of your class feel like they belong with you and you miss them when they are not there.” –Michelle Fretz

60. “Never accept mediocrity from your students. If you expect great things, they can rise to greater heights. Remember to tell them how smart, wonderful, and awesome they are. You might be the only person that they hear it from. You might be the only person who empowers them. Don’t ever give up on asking for help with strategies or resources to help your kids be successful! Form positive relationships with parents, and empower them too!” –Misty Persilver

61. “Treat the children with love and respect. Many students come from homes where they don’t have either one. Once they know you care, 95 percent will be putty in your hands!” –Julie Paulus

62. “You can’t reach kids to teach them until they know you care. Spend time building relationships, especially with your most difficult students.” –Pat Thrailkill

63. “Find something to connect with your students. Connections and relationships are key to getting kids interested in learning.” –Patricia Theiss

64. “Always expect the best from your students.”
   –Twila Claybomb

65. “Treat each student as an individual!”
   –Pamela Howell

66. “Get to know your students, and let them get to know you, too. Try to build a classroom community by creating an atmosphere of trust.”
   –Dena Wright

67. “Pace yourself. Never give up on students or yourself.” –Melody Waters

68. “Love students unconditionally; it is worth it in the end. If someone is having a hard day, put a little bit of extra effort in. Being kind can make the difference in any person’s day.” –Kylie Ziegler

69. “Get to know each of your students and meet their individual needs. Go out of your way to make each child feel special and needed.”
   –Chris Pombonyo

70. “It’s important that the students feel that you like them. There is always something about each student that you can find to like. Each student has the right to feel liked and accepted, especially by the teacher.” –Patricia Held
71. “Get to know your students’ interests and strengths.” –Gloria Wilson

72. “Always establish a positive relationship with every student. Let them know that you care about them and want what is best for them. Students need to know that they are safe and that you are their biggest supporter.” –Jennifer Porter

73. “Think about what you say and do with your students, because your choices in the little moments today have the possibility to impact them forever.” –Jackie Druck

74. “Always get to know your students so you can better reach them.” –Sheena Wagner

75. “Make a difference in the lives of your children by telling them every day that you care.”
   –Carole Pippin

76. “Treat every child the way you would want to be treated. Mutual respect goes a very long way in a great relationship with students!” –Nanci Zibell

77. “Be genuine! Children are very intuitive, and they know if you sincerely care about them or if you are just selling them a bill of goods. Go out of your way to show interest in what they are doing outside the classroom, such as extracurricular activities. This will help to form a good relationship, and having a good relationship will also assist with behavior problems.”
   –Sho Shann Lyn Cook

78. “I begin each year by asking each child to think back to the previous school year. Then I ask them to remember if they were ever not at their best. This could have been because they’d forgotten homework, were asked to stop talking in class, did not study for a test, etc. Invariably, each child ends up nodding yes, they’d thought of something. Then I tell them to forget whatever it was and that they have a brand new slate. I say that everyone is beginning a new year on level ground and that I know they’ll amaze me with their efforts. You can hear the sighs going around the class as they realize that they don’t have to worry knowing that I’ll be working with my own set of rules, and no one begins at a disadvantage. Of course, I do read files, but strenuously try to give each child the benefit of the doubt in the new year. This has worked so beautifully in my 30+ years of teaching that I would never think of changing it.”
   –Susan Zimmerman

79. “Listen to your students.” –Kitty Wanicek

80. “Be there for all your students. They ultimately become your children. Be positive and have a fun, learning- and education-filled teaching strategy. Show your students their worth not only as a student, but as a human being, as well. Too often their home lives or social lives are bringing them down, and you may be the only loving and positive individual who is guiding their lives in the right direction. Therefore, if you follow your heart and have all your students’ interests in mind, you will never go wrong.”
   –Gabrielle Beech

81. “Get to know your students. It will help you know how they learn best and also let them feel you are invested in them and their learning.”
   –Deanne Belford

82. “Connect with your kids not only in the academics, but also with your heart. Reach out to them with care, and you will be amazed at what they will do for you! Think outside the box when creating supports and helps for children. Really Good Stuff has just the right tools for you to use!”
   –Carla Smalley
83. “Keep things simple, especially if it’s your first year. Remember, not every child is going to be leaving the house with a hug and kiss. Those students who don’t are going to need lots of extra love and support.” —Coral Wagner

84. “Build solid relationships with every student. Relationships are the key to a smooth year.” —Jennifer Carrico

85. “Be patient! You do not know what goes on in their homes to make them tired or grouchy or uncooperative, so be empathetic. Love each student as if he or she were your own. Children are gifts and should be held in high importance.” —Melissa Hays

86. “Know your students and give them room to learn and grow.” —Debra Swerbinsky

87. “Create connections with students, build up their self esteem, and praise them every chance you get.” —Linda Upshaw

88. “Give it your all! Put everything you have in, and you will get everything out of them.” —Haillary Fairbanks

89. “Appreciate each student for the unique individual he or she is; then teach to that individual.” —Joanne Slot

90. “Find a way to praise every student every day. It will keep your thoughts positive, even on the toughest days.” —Mary Heeringa

91. “Build relationships with your students, get to know them.” —Susan Westfall

92. “Really show kids that you care! Go to their football games, take time to talk to them at Walmart, share stories of your own life and invite them to do the same. You want an environment that is family-like. You are their home away from home, and they should feel like you are an important part of their life—you really care for them!” —Kristen Whitaker

93. “The way you talk to children becomes their inner voice. I read that one day, and it is in the forefront of my mind every morning when I start a new adventure with my students. I will forever impact their lives; it is both an honor and an awesome responsibility.” —Heather White

94. “Just remember that behind every bad behavior is usually a child crying out for love and help.” —Robin Garcia

95. “Never lose sight of the reason you chose to be a teacher...it is always about the kids!” —Kim Carter

96. “Cherish every moment. Don’t get so caught up in the chaos that you forget how special each child truly is.” —Alyssa Farley

97. “Love and treat your students as if they were your own.” —Debbie Carter

98. “Let your children know that you really care for each and every one of them. Make time for learning about the gifts that each child has. When they know that you truly care, they become big achievers. Also, a smile goes a long way.” —Teresa Shepherd
99. “Treat your students with the respect you would an adult. I teach first grade and always talk to my students like they are grown—no talking down or belittling them. Always try to be positive.” –Thea Williams

100. “Treat each child as an individual.”
    –Kathy Carter Bullen

101. “Treat your students fairly, don’t play favorites, and always remember to love them. Love them enough to remember that your main job is to teach them, and never let their behavior or yours get in the way of that goal.”
    –Monica Marcum

102. “Never give up on any child. They all have the ability to learn, you just need to find a way to relate to them.” –Rebecca Cicione

103. “Never ask a student’s previous teacher the history of a child. You will find yourself judging and treating him differently without even knowing him first. Everyone deserves a clean slate at the beginning of a school year.”
    –Norma Cinco

104. “Help students become self-reliant.”
    –Roy Claycomb

105. “Always remember that your students are little individuals with different styles, personalities, backgrounds, and problems. Just as you have bad days, so do they. Have patience (I know this can be difficult), and celebrate any little success. Even if it’s only learning to write the first letters of their names or sitting in their own spots on the floor, it’s important. Some children never hear praise and will blossom with only a word, a pat, or a smile!” –Tammy Cleghorn

106. “Remember that each of these children means the world to his or her family, and you want to do the very best for them so they can succeed in everything they do.” –Nicole Clifford

107. “Get to know your students on a deeper level. Understand what motivates them, and try to differentiate your teaching to fit those needs. For example, if you have a student who loves to sing, try to incorporate singing into a lesson. Make learning fun, and make school a place to which the students get excited to come. Kids know when we care and when we just want the day to be over. Love what you do, and love your students.” –Ilana Rockman

108. “Be authentic and real with your students, give them honest answers, and share your life with them so they can appreciate your accomplishments and struggles as a teacher. Students will respect and work harder for someone who they know cares for them.” –Jennifer Smith

109. “Know your children really well. Know your curriculum really well. Love your children, and let them know it!” –Marilyn Cohn

110. “See beyond the surface...see the heart of the child.” –Janine Ross

111. “Always believe in your students and hold high expectations, and they will rise up to accomplish the task.” –Gwen Snipes
112. “With kids today, you need to be organized
and develop a caring atmosphere in your room
so the kids know it is okay to make mistakes, but
you can push them to know they can succeed
with hard work. Set those goals high enough so
the kids will reach for them. One of my kids told
me, ‘I knew I could succeed because you knew I
could succeed.’”
–Debbie Stanley

113. “Respect your students, and they will respect
you.” –Christine Smith

114. “Develop a deep working relationship with
every child. Find out what makes them tick.
When children feel you value and understand
them as people, they will do anything for you.
They will trust you. They will take chances by
raising their hands even when they are unsure
of their answers. They will try their hardest to
behave for you. And they will run to school
each morning.” –Karen Cooper

115. “Cherish each student who walks through your
classroom door as a unique, individual human
being full of unlimited potential.”
–Susan Mahoney

116. “Know that each student has worth, value, and
dignity, and deserves the best from us each
day.” –Robin Eckel

117. “Students will not remember everything you
teach them, but they will always remember how
you made them feel.” –Melissa Shoer

118. “Listen to the students’ concerns. Really look at
them, especially when you have a classroom
with 30 kids.” –Agathe Show

119. “Be yourself. Kids can sense someone who
is not genuine. They will respect you more if
you treat them as the intelligent human beings
they are. Also, we all get that one kid who
just annoys the heck out of us. Each day, find
something you like about that child, and pretty
soon, you’ll genuinely enjoy him or her!”
–Linda Cummings

120. “At least once a day, tell each child something
positive about him/herself. For example:
‘Taylor, you are an awesome writer! I love the
way your stories come alive right off the page!’
When students feel you believe in them, the sky
is the limit on what they are willing to attempt.”
–Judi Davis

121. “Always have a heart. Show your students that
you care and like them, and you will have them
in your hands.” –Karen Day

122. “Get to know each student! Talk to them not just
about the subject matter. Some students don’t
get good attention anywhere else, so just love
on them.” –Katherine Dickens

123. “Love your kids, meet them where they are, and
they will do amazing things.” –Lori Williams

124. “Remember that every child is special in his or
her own little way.” –Diane Crowe

125. “Realize that sometimes you might be the only
positive aspect of your students’ day. Make
it meaningful, and understand that they are
bringing to the classroom whatever challenges
they may be facing outside your class. Have
compassion.” –Emily Ekstrand
126. “Be prepared! Be consistent and fair. Treat your students as if they were your own children. That means you laugh and joke with them, you encourage and push them toward greatness, but when the time comes, you demand respect and that they follow your lead—your directions. They’ll love you as they do their parents. And, you will motivate them to want to do their best.”
   –Donna Ellis

**Consistency**

127. “Be consistent!” –Joshua Abbott

128. “Be consistent and have high expectations, especially at the beginning.”
   –Danielle Miles

129. “Have a consistent classroom management plan in place in your classroom.”
   –Amy Shollenberger

130. “Be consistent! Love them all!” –Carry Eaton

131. “Be consistent and be compassionate. Always remember that every student has his or her own story. We do not always know what a student goes through in the world outside school. As a school librarian, I am rarely made aware of students’ situations, so I keep that in mind with every class I teach.” –Amy Peabody

132. “Students thrive on structure, and so will you.”
   –Sara Urban

133. “Be consistent and have fun! The students can tell if you enjoy what you do!” –Mary Jo Bey

134. “Be consistent and follow through with student discipline.” –Emily Sheehan

135. “Be consistent in your expectations for both academics and behavior. The students will perform better if they know what to expect from you.” –Christine Roy

136. “Stay consistent!” –Melanie Blaum

137. “Be consistent with expectations for behaviors—you have to start there before teaching begins. Also, model exactly what you want the students to do so they will understand what is expected of them.” –Virginia Ogle

138. “If you say you’re going to do something, then you need to do it!” –Susan Fletcher

139. “Never give up!” –Chad Boender

140. “Be consistent! Say what you mean, and mean what you say. In order to have credibility with your students, you have to follow through on what you say you are going to do. Even at times when you have to punish students, they will have more respect for you when they know you are going to follow through on the consequences!” –Joyel Scott

141. “Have patience!” –Alice Boozer

142. “Always follow through with whatever you say to your class.” –Susan Cameli
143. “Do what you say you are going to do. Be firm, yet caring.” –Antoinette Curtis Flexibility

Flexibility

144. “Be flexible and ready to roll with the punches.” –Stacey Adamo

145. “Be willing to reflect and change your practices as needed.” –Katie Fitzhugh

146. “Take all the extra time your kids need.” I was given this advice 16 years ago, and I found it gave me the permission I needed to teach my kids the way they needed to be taught.” –Amy Major

147. “Be flexible. Many times things will not go as expected, and that is okay.” –Julie Ahern

148. “Roll with the punches! Sometimes you do have to stop what you are doing and try something new. It’s okay! It will all get done in due time.” –Kristin Fitzgerald

149. “Be able to think on your feet, and reflect at the end of the day on what worked and didn’t work in your lessons. Allow all your students to feel accepted, and change your lessons to fit the needs of every student. Be open to new ideas. Most importantly, value your students’ opinions and allow them to make mistakes. Create a classroom community of lifelong learners.” –Michelle Skowronski

150. “Be flexible. Many things happen during the day, and we don’t always get to do the things planned!” –Debbie VanDrew

151. “Follow your lesson plans, but always follow the teachable moments that arise during the lesson.” –Lorena Reimann

152. “Be flexible and laugh every day!” –Cheryl Bailey

153. “The hardest thing in teaching is letting go. Sometimes as teachers we over plan, so I think it is important to remain calm and take the time to listen to our students and see in what direction they will take us.” –Stephanie Ferland

154. “Don’t stress out if something doesn’t get done. Just start over the next day.” –Wendy Batis

155. “Expect the unexpected!” –Cheryl Baxter

156. “Take things in stride, and do not worry if things go over like a pound of bricks.” –Joanna Beranek

157. “Be flexible! Things change constantly in the field of education.” –Lia Binetti

158. “Be flexible. All the planning in the world changes when you meet your students and do what is best for them.” –Jamie Swartzel

159. “Be flexible! As teachers we worry so much about getting everything on our plans completed, but in the process, we lose out on some pretty awesome teachable moments.” –Deborah Zoeckler

160. “Adapt!” –Donna Blaszka

161. “Roll with it. Enjoy the kids!” –Leann Booth

162. “Things change every day and every year, and you must be able to adapt and change along with them.” –Ellen Hoefermann

163. “Have patience, because each child is different.” –Latricia Bowers
164. “Patience and flexibility are key. Sometimes you have to throw normal out the window. Pull out a toss-across game and use it for math problems, or use what is going on in the world that day as your lesson plan. By doing so, the children will see that sometimes days and life don’t go according to a set plan, but it doesn’t mean that what you end up doing isn’t valuable. In fact, it may end up being one of those things they remember well into adulthood.”
   –Dawn Braddock

165. “Go with the flow. No matter how good your lessons are, don’t get upset and lose focus when things go a different way. Things happen, so enjoy every twist and turn teaching has for you.”
   –Allison Brocking

166. “Start fresh every day!”
   –Kathy Wiegand

167. “Just breathe. There is always something new to learn or change. Just keep plowing ahead and doing your best. Breathe. It’s not the end of the world.”
   –Laurie Tweedell

168. “Teach in the moment. You never know what will pop up while you’re teaching, so be in the moment, not worrying about limitations put on you from outside the classroom.”
   –Amanda Walley

169. “Be flexible and open. Be willing to take ideas and share ideas, because every child is different and everybody learns differently.”
   –Patricia Brooks

170. “Never be afraid to stop and say, ‘This isn’t working. Let’s try....’”
   –Karyn Byrd

171. “Be flexible and open to new ideas. Curriculum, learning styles, and your students are constantly changing, so learn to go with the flow and be open to new ways of teaching. Remember, you’re there for the kids first and foremost.”
   –Sarah Camp

172. “Go with the flow, but remember it is about the kids, not curriculum.”
   –Maggie Capriola

173. “Never be static. Always be open to change and remain flexible.”
   –Sherry Sakai

174. “Be flexible. Things change, parents call, parents show up to your classroom, there is a fire drill or a water main break or no computer.... Be flexible! Above all...have fun!”
   –Marilyn Rufkahr

175. “Love what you are doing!”
   –Beverly Childs

176. “Remember, each day is a new day to start off fresh!”
   –Joyce Corbin

177. “Don’t be afraid to follow the lead of the students, even if it means abandoning the lesson plan.”
   –Amy Kane

178. “Be patient, and when the plan changes, roll with it.”
   –Jennifer Engel

179. “If you feel as though you are flying by the seat of your pants, don’t worry because the students won’t know.”
   –Marie Craven

180. “Always be flexible! Things never go exactly as you anticipate, and you have to be able to go with the flow.”
   –Lisa Derouin
181. “Try to use technology, but always have a backup plan. Technology never works in those crucial moments (for example, during an observation), so a backup plan is never a bad idea.” –Heather Jackson

182. “Be patient and be able to laugh at situations and yourself.” –Colleen Deegan

183. “Always be ready to go with the flow. Don’t let interruptions and the unexpected ruin your day.” –Joellyn Szura

184. “Understand that we don’t have time to get ‘everything’ done. It’s okay; try not to become so overwhelmed.” –Kelly Desrocher

185. “Don’t be afraid to be wrong. It is how you learn and keep moving forward to new things.” –Sofia Dirkswager

186. “Be flexible and have a great attitude. Curriculum changes are evident each year, and student populations are different every year. It just makes your day better if you maintain a great attitude about it all. Be infectious with a great attitude. Success will be yours!” –Pamela Fain

187. “Be flexible. Schedules change, technology freezes, children cry, lights go out, curriculum and standards change. Being flexible will keep your stress to a minimum. Being flexible will also make you a good team player.” –Julie King

Lessons

188. “If it is not in the lesson plan, just pretend it is. It’s a great way to gain teachable moments.” –Betty Stuart

189. “Teach from the heart, with spontaneous teaching in addition to the curriculum. Students will respond a lot more when you cater to what they need and want.” –Zoe Paton

190. “Just go into the classroom and teach children what you believe they need to be taught. Love them and teach them like nobody else can. You will make a difference in the life of a precious child.” –Kimberly Floyd

191. “Always give students a purpose for their learning.” –Jamie Sloan

192. “Teach to the child’s ability level.” –Diane Smallze

193. “See the best in all the children, and think outside the box when a student is not getting what you are teaching.” –Karin Laskowski

194. “Always find a way to make your subject fun. Be excited about what you are teaching. Include your students in your lesson planning and test development, and be respectful to your students.” –Crystal Rodgers

195. “Don’t forget about small groups! Working with students in a small-group setting can make all the difference. It allows more focused attention on each student’s level to help them succeed.” –Rebecca Yarrow

196. “Do not be disappointed if you do not reach every child all the time. It is the moments when the children show you that you made a difference in their lives that really matter. That is what teaching is all about...making a difference.” –Patrice Lundgren

197. “Do what you feel is right. Don’t teach a certain way just because other people are doing it. Stay true to yourself.” –Kory Graham

198. “Enjoy the little successes of every day!” –Linda Pratt

199. “When teaching a lesson and things aren’t going as planned, remember to stay calm and smile. The students have no idea what you have planned.” –Monica Hiatt
200. “Forgive yourself for the not-so-good lessons or days, and find ways to make it better next time.” –Kim Scopazzo

201. “Start the year with activities that correspond with your rules and routines. Having solid routines and rules established first will provide for a smoother year.” –Phyllis Williams

202. “See the lessons through your students’ eyes, and put yourself in their shoes. Ask yourself, ‘How would I learn this particular lesson best?’” –Elizabeth Ellinger

203. “Be patient! When something isn’t working, look at the way you present the information. It’s sometimes hard to admit, but it may be the teaching style and not the child. Try a different approach to get their brains thinking differently!” –Meghan Sauer

204. “Know when to give breaks. It doesn’t make sense to continue a lesson when you know you’ve lost the students. Movement and hydration are necessary—especially with first graders.” –Krista Moore

205. “Don’t reinvent the wheel…just tweak it!” –Catherine Anstead

206. “Treat your children as if they were your own. Do anything it takes to teach to their own style: songs, tricks, games. Anything it takes.” –Michele Anszselowicz

207. “If your lessons aren’t fun and interesting for you, they won’t be fun and interesting to your students!” –Marisa Arthur

208. “Always keep learning fun and hands-on.” –Jennifer Baker

209. “Make sure that the technology you are incorporating in your lessons accentuates the standard, but does not detract from the content. Find the right balance to make sure you aren’t incorporating technology for technology’s sake. Make sure that it is there to move the lesson forward and engage students.” –Erika Bell

210. “Look for and create lessons that will make them want to learn. Keep them guessing what will happen next, and make it fun.” –Donna Shockey

211. “If something goes wrong in a lesson, take that opportunity to capitalize on the ‘mistake.’ Some of the best lessons happen when a lesson plan takes a turn.” –Shaunna Bentrop

212. “Use Post-it® notes to reflect on the lessons you teach each day. I write down tips, suggestions, the positives and negatives of the different activities and lessons I teach on Post-its® and keep them in my lesson-plan book. It will make it easier to improve lessons the following year when you look back on your lessons.” –McKenzie Brewer

213. “Remember your purpose. Your students should be the main focus of all that you do.” –Amy Burgess

214. “Keep it real! Let your students get up and move as much as possible. They need brain breaks, and this will help them focus longer.” –Susan Carlson

215. “Kids learn in spite of us and at their own pace. Don’t get hung up on what you didn’t get done. Know that you did your best on what you did get done. We get a new chance every day to educate little minds. We are constantly investing in the future!” –Laura Carrasco
216. “Every day is an opportunity for your students and you to learn. Constantly evaluate what you can do to improve your lessons and classroom management. Don’t get upset when things aren’t running as smoothly as you’d like. Your classroom and your lessons are works in progress. Have some grace for yourself.”
   –Cathy Carroll

217. “Relax and have fun. Seek advice when you need to. Be excited about learning.”
   –Nancy Christie

218. “Be creative, because every child is unique and learns things in different ways.”
   –Lynn Clancey

219. “Always look for the teachable moments that just pop up after a student asks a question.”
   –Sally Corriel

220. “Each day is a new day. What happened yesterday can be changed. Just look at the day as a new day, and teach according to what your students need that day.”
   –Susan Couch

221. “As you teach your students, let them teach you as well.”
   –Katie Deutsch

222. “Take advantage of teachable moments, and remember to be flexible!”
   –Kathy DiBenedetto

223. “Use multi-sensory materials, and teach in a manner that will reach all types of learning styles. Don’t sit at your desk and lecture! Get up, move around, and excite your students!”
   –Suzan Doherty

224. “Organization is the key to keeping your head above the paper pile.”
   –Maureen Adams

225. “Be organized. It makes everything so much easier! I make copies of all the supplements I use with lessons and keep those in with that particular lesson’s folder.”
   –Jackie Westfall

226. “Be organized and keep learning.”
   –Sahba Alvi

227. “Have patience and good organizational skills. Remember, it’s the children that count the most.”
   –Tina Arrington

228. “Stay organized and communicate with everyone!”
   –Susie Hinden

229. “Stay ahead of the game and on top of organization.”
   –Lauren Bowman

230. “Stay organized! Don’t get lost in paper clutter.”
   –Sarah Brown

231. “Create a simple organization system for keeping track of important documents. Committing 10 minutes a day to sorting important documents helps keep me organized throughout the year.”
   –Mari Galindo Sanchez

232. “Accomplish your tasks as they come up. Your to-do lists will continue to grow instead of decrease.”
   –Heather Soucy

233. “Always try to be prepared the day before. Have materials for the following day’s lessons out and ready to go.”
   –Erin Gallagher

234. “Try your best to be organized and ready for anything.”
   –Glenna Bryant

Organization

224. “Organization is the key to keeping your head above the paper pile.”
   –Maureen Adams

225. “Be organized. It makes everything so much easier! I make copies of all the supplements I use with lessons and keep those in with that particular lesson’s folder.”
   –Jackie Westfall
235. “Stay organized! This includes always having an extra activity at the ready for all those fast finishers.” –Cate Cosentino

236. “Use a yellow highlighter to put a check mark on your master worksheets, and you will never pass out that paper. The highlighter mark does not show when you copy the master.”
   –Darleen Crosby

237. “Purge all your old teaching files and make room for Common Core ideas. Use a notebook that includes your personal curriculum map based on Common Core standards and your district scope and sequence. Stay flexible! Log on to Really Good Stuff for their awesome products every week.”
   –Nannette Smith

238. “Stay organized. A place for everything, and everything in its place.”
   –Debby Guardino

239. “Procedures and organization are key!”
   –Britta Dokes

240. “Always be organized, and there will be fewer student misbehaviors. The year will run smoothly.”
   –Nancy Miles

241. “Stay organized. Have a notebook for pertinent information and PLC meetings to keep track of everything we have to do other than teach.”
   –Lisa Dollahon

242. “Stay organized! Otherwise everything piles up or gets lost. If you stay on top of your organization, it keeps you and the kids sane.”
   –Leah Spencer

243. “Get organized. You will read about tons of systems, but create your own organizational system and schedule in downtime. Find time for yourself. You will be a better teacher if you have a half hour a day to just breathe and read a book, drink wine on the porch, or whatever it is that relaxes you.”
   –Sarah Doyle

244. “Find methods of organization that work for you. I keep a teacher binder in which I include my lesson plans, schedules, IEPs, grade sheets, Common Core standards, and more. It really helps to have everything right there where I need it—especially when I’m planning.”
   –Ashley Laws

245. “Stay organized and have fun with your students.”
   –Lorie Wilson

246. “Get organized early with an easy-for-you-to-use system so you will keep up with it!”
   –Tiffany Hickman

Parents

247. “Call parents for the good stuff, too. You’ll feel great, you’ll solidify parent partnerships, and you’ll motivate the kids with just two minutes of effort.”
   –Amy Bahena Ettner

248. “Have a good rapport with the parents.”
   –Sharon Bearden

249. “Always remember that the students in your class are somebody’s babies. Treat them with the love and patience you would treat your own kids.”
   –Stephanie Blanda

250. “Keep the lines of communication open with your parents.”
   –Tina Smith

251. “Always involve your students’ families as your partners. Having good relationships with the families will encourage the children and help you with your relationship with the children, as well.”
   –Kari Brandenburg

252. “Build relationships with kids and parents for a successful year.”
   –Allie Hoyt

253. “Communication with parents, students, and even coworkers is key!”
   –Jillian Hubbard
254. “Get the parents on your side right away. After the first week of school, call each parent with something positive about their child. By doing this you will have them in your hand already, so if a behavior issue occurs they are more likely to help you out.” –Laurie Witz

255. “Develop a genuine relationship with your students’ parents. Make sure to touch base with them frequently throughout the year, and let most of that communication be positive. The parents will be more responsive to your requests for help academically and behaviorally when they feel you care about their child.” –Meghan Carleton

256. “Parents, parents, parents. Get and keep them involved!” –Lewis Christmas

257. “Just breathe, and don’t take everything personally. You are going to upset some parents, but remember that you are here to teach, encourage, and touch lives. You will get more out of your teaching experience than you realize.” –Debra Winner Scott

258. “Keep parents involved with your classroom’s activities. Develop great communication skills with them. Parent Teachers Conferences should not be the only time when you speak with parents.” –Andrea Scott

259. “Think of all the kids as your own, and be sure to show respect to them and their families. Some families will not trust you, and others will. Whether they do or not, it is your calling to ensure that all families feel secure in entrusting you with the education of their child. That education includes academic, emotional, life, and organizational skills. It’s the greatest privilege any person can enjoy.” –Erica Cooper

260. “Foster good relationships with parents. It will make your school year much easier.” –Erin Palmer

261. “Parents send us the best kids they have. They don’t keep the good ones at home.” –Pam Smith

262. “Make your first parent contact a positive one. Call each student and invite him/her to open house. Don’t be afraid to contact parents. Show respect, and you will get respect.” –Kristen Davis

263. “Always be a good listener to both students and parents! It always pays off.” –Connie Semler

264. “Spend a few minutes every day (or at the end of the week) to express to parents how awesome their kid is. Call, e-mail, or whatever you need to do. That one phone call can make the difference between a typical weekend and a fantastic one. I’ve had kids come in and say, ‘Thank you, Mrs. Deurmeier. You made my weekend!’” –Cyndie Deurmeier

265. “Reach out to the parents, get them involved, and help them understand that they are an essential part of their child’s academic success.” –Kellilou Freel Prue

266. “Always document conversations with parents.” –Anne Georgi
267. “Your students are someone else’s children. How would you want your children treated?”
   –Cheryl Deutschman

268. “When dealing with parents and children, remember that they are people with real feelings, experiences, and thoughts of their own. Education and support does not happen without a meaningful relationship that shows we care about the people with whom we spend our days.”
   –Krystal Lanham

269. “Remember, the parents are sending us their very best. We should treat them as precious gifts.”
   –Pam Newton

270. “Have ongoing communication with the parents. They will love to hear positives and will be supportive if there is a problem.”
   –Sue Williams

271. “Always remember to love yourself, your family, your students, and your profession. Always wear a smile, even when times are tough. Your children will remember you for that. Also, maintain good parent rapport. It is parent support that may get you through a tough year!”
   –Elizabeth Wright

272. “Learn all you can about your students and their families. Build a rapport with them that will enable you to communicate positives, as well as not so positive things, to receptive ears.”
   –Audrey Farlow

273. “Immediately develop a strong relationship with parents by weekly and monthly communications, a lot of positive phone calls, as well as e-mail and postcards! Parents are a big factor in their child’s success!”
   –Dedrae Smiley

274. “Make a plan to use your planning periods wisely, and stick to it.”
   –Gabrielle Agwu

275. “Be flexible and have more planned than you can possibly do. Leave no downtime that could make room for behavior problems.”
   –Amanda Mikell

276. “Learn the benefits of time management.”
   –Thomas Meek

277. “Always be well prepared for your students and have a plan B ready, too.”
   –Francine Simmonds

278. “Keep their plates full, and they will never get bored.”
   –Kirsten Lehman

279. “Always have a backup plan for when something doesn’t go the way it is supposed to.”
   –Natalie Southworth

280. “Stay ahead!”
   –Kim Krieger

281. “Prepare more than you think you’ll need!”
   –Linda Stoffan

282. “Prioritize! Think about what skills/standards are the most important, and focus on those. Think about what classroom behaviors are ‘deal-breakers,’ and work on those. Some smaller things can be easily redirected/corrected. What classroom routines are essential for a smoothly running class? Hone in on those. I remember being told, ‘Don’t sweat the small stuff, and most of it is small stuff.’ You can’t do everything in our limited day, and you can’t correct every single thing that is not perfect.”
   –Toni Fletcher

Planning
283. “Always have a backup plan.”
   —Allison Heuberger

284. “Pre-plan everything.” —Sheila Wilson

285. “As a first year teacher, I have learned to limit how much work is brought home on the weekends.” —Amanda Haggerty

286. “Be prepared for each morning, and have extras ready to go for those who finish early.” —Jennifer Howell

287. “Work your hardest and prepare at school so you can rest up and relax at home. This helps you to be prepared, confident, and ready for each school day.” —Janette Young

288. “Have a plan.” —Christina Hunt

289. “Keep your patience, and pre-plan everything!”
   —Karen Stadler

290. “Pick at least one day a week that you don’t take work home. Make it the same day each week. You will find yourself looking forward to that day each week. It keeps you from getting burned out.” —Mitzi Alvar

291. “Always be over-prepared. Have materials ready to go for all levels of your students.”
   —Stephanie Becker

292. “Failure to plan is planning to fail.”
   —Rachael Hope

293. “Use a pencil when planning.” —Sally Mitchell

294. “Follow your pacing guide, instruction manuals, curriculum maps, and standards, but take time to follow your heart. Remember, these are children, and some children need extra nurturing to soar in academics. Use the teachable moments, and remember the difference that teaching can make for our world.” —Amee Mirskov

295. “Over-plan, always!” —Amanda Botelho

296. “Be prepared. Have things ready for the next day before you leave. Your day will go much better, and you will be ready in case you need a sub!” —Susan Braun

297. “Stay calm and pretend it is on the lesson plan!” —Cheryl Brouwer

298. “Plan, plan, plan! Taking the time to plan ahead allows you the teaching time to assure that the children get the concept. It helps take everything to the next level.” —Jillian Jack

299. “You don’t need to reinvent the wheel. Use resources that are already out there.”
   —Marlene Filippelli

300. “Be prepared, and be sure to have backup lessons just in case those inevitable school changes happen.” —Alexa Coffey

301. “Be prepared. It is better to over-plan than to not have enough and not know what to do with your little learners.” —Lynne Cyr

302. “Be over-prepared and keep your sense of humor!” —Vera Eisen

303. “Have materials organized for student use and help.” —Sandy Evans
–Launna Vinnedge

Preschool

305. “Give your preschoolers opportunities to be children first and scholars second.”
–Susan Amato

306. “Remember, you were once their age, too. Think about how you felt and the things you experienced at their age.”
–Erin Baker

307. “Step back from all the curriculum, and remember that these are little people.”
–Lisa Koziara

308. “Plan well, but be flexible. When working with young children, a lot of times you have to adjust your plans and go with the flow. Enjoy your little children, and share the joy of learning.”
–Susie Hatfield

309. “Have a good sense of humor!”
–Patricia Carter

310. “Remember that you’re there for the children. Nothing else matters.”
–Michelle Connolly

311. “When you line up Pre-K children, tell them that they are a train and need to stay on the track.”
–Dianne Soderfelt

312. “Young children follow your example. Model the behaviors you want your students to show.”
–Stacy Stokdyk

313. “Learn by playing.”
–Dana Monk

314. “Don’t always stand when speaking to the little ones at desks or tables. Get down to their level and look them in the eyes. Also, be prepared for anything! Go with the flow, and be flexible but firm! Let your love shine through no matter what!”
–Mary Lou Scalera

315. “Never forget how privileged we are to be such influential parts of little lives.”
–Megan Ratica

Professional Development

316. “Never stop learning! Take advantage of the knowledge and experiences of your colleagues. Participate in staff development opportunities. Do your own research. There is a wealth of information and ideas out there. You have to continue to grow and improve each school year to be a successful teacher.”
–Allison Clark

317. “Be comfortable with being uncomfortable; with always wanting to improve things. There is no such thing as being the perfect teacher! You must always change to meet the needs of your students.”
–Nan LaFitte

318. “Get on Twitter! Twitter is the best free, professional development you can have. You can connect with people around the world for that support that we all need in order to survive our crazy profession. I especially recommend having people participate in weekly chats so that they get even more connected with others. #TeachChat is always a good one.”
–Elizabeth Goold

319. “Listen to your students, because even as a teacher, you are still learning!”
–Dalia Hunter

320. “Always remember to be a student of our profession while teaching and guiding your students.”
–Amanda Nobrega
321. “Use the Internet. Some of my students’ favorite projects are the ones I found online. Great resources are out there, so go searching and adapt to the needs of your students!”  
   –Nora Stetson

322. “Never be satisfied. Keep looking for ways to improve your teaching and add to your resources. Love what you do!”  
   –Becky Anderson

323. “Learn the Common Core.”  
   –Mary Larose

324. “Get on Twitter and make connections with other educators. It’s the best source of PD I’ve found!”  
   –Shawn Avery

325. “Instead of being overwhelmed by everything you know you need to do, pick a few things each year to focus on, and master them.”  
   –Amy Heiman

326. “Never stop learning!”  
   –Sarah Underwood

327. “Know that what they teach you in college will never really prepare you for the real world. Other than that, buy lots of items from Really Good Stuff, be organized, and have tons of fun resources that you and students will love!”  
   –Rebecca Parker

328. “Never stop learning is my best teaching advice. There are so many ways to be an effective teacher. Never stop adding to that knowledge.”  
   –Sylvia Little

329. “Never stop trying to learn something new!”  
   –Margaret Owens

330. “No matter what your degree is, you must continue going to graduate school classes to further your education as a teacher. However, wait three years after being a new teacher so you get a grasp of what you don’t yet know before going to graduate school or formal continuing-education classes.”  
   –Rachel Selig

331. “Consistently take time to reflect and evaluate the effectiveness of your instruction, and make adjustments along the way. The first time is usually not perfect.”  
   –Becky Yardley

332. “Find a network of people to support you, share ideas, and learn from!”  
   –Kelly Tyndal

333. “Technology is updated daily, and new and exciting ways to teach are being developed. Be prepared to teach students to be thinkers and problem solvers, because we are preparing students for jobs that haven’t even been created yet. Never stop learning to be a better educator!”  
   –Rebecca Rockey

334. “Start each day with the thought that your scholars will learn something new today.”  
   –Kim Carey

335. “Practice the routines of your classroom as much as possible in the first few weeks of school. Later in the year when things are running smoothly, you’ll be ever so happy that you did.”  
   –Janice McKnight

336. “Make sure that variety is a part of your classroom routine.”  
   –Kim Robinson

337. “Have routines in place so your students know what to expect.”  
   –Lindsey Korbin

338. “Always greet your students with a smile and treat them with dignity.”  
   –Dawn Chisholm
339. “Before greeting your students in the morning, put a smile on your face. Even if you aren’t a morning person, your students still need to see a smiling face at school, and it makes your day better.” –Michelle Francis

340. “Let every moment with a child be a good teaching moment.” –Ronee Collins

341. “The best thing I have ever implemented in my teaching routine is a classroom-management system called ‘The Daily 5.’ It allows me to effectively meet all the individual needs of each student and challenge each one to reach his or her potential.” –Jolene White

342. “Make plans and be prepared, but be flexible and ready to change those plans at any moment!” –Shaughan Rumohr


344. “Do not get so caught up in the business of teaching that you miss the joy of it.” –Angie Saal

345. “Get to know your office manager, lead custodian, and cafeteria manager very well. You will need their support.” –Kristin Cappelli

346. “Don’t panic! Everyone around you is there to help you learn and grow to become the best teacher you can be.” –Ronni Fredrickson

347. “Observe more teachers who are doing amazing work.” –Jennifer Snyder

348. “Find a great mentor.” –Nancy Strout

349. “You need to develop a strong team support system, whether grade level or subject area. Both is even better. Teaching today has its difficulties, but it helps to share and get support from colleagues; they are in the ‘trenches’ with you!” –Carol Pease

350. “Teaching is not an island. Ask for help. You don’t have to re-invent the wheel.” –Regina Tanksley

351. “Become friends with the office staff, custodian, and school nurse. They are always one of the first to lend a helping hand.” –Caitlin Orsborne

352. “Always share ideas with your team members.” –Diane Johnson

353. “Stay positive. Don’t get into school politics or gossip. Remember, it is all about the kids.” –Donna Joyce

354. “Distance yourself from negativity. Our jobs are difficult enough without being sucked into the conversations of the Debbie Downers.” –Bobbie Jo Carlson

355. “Don’t be afraid to ask for help.” –Jamie Cihak

356. “Make friends with the custodian and the office clerks. They can make your day easier or very difficult!” –Erine Ames

357. “Collaborate with other teachers when writing lesson plans.” –Kim Colley
358. “Be good to the secretary and janitors; they make the school so much nicer. Always be fair and approachable. These lessons will last the longest.” –Evette Mumford

359. “Work with your team to come up with a consistent approach to implementing the new Common Core!” –Kim McCormack

360. “Many things that happen during the course of the day/year we have no control over, so they are not worth getting upset over. When dumb stuff happens among colleagues, try not to take it personally. Being an educator is very stressful, and sometimes that comes out sideways, especially with people closest to us. Try to go to dinner and not talk shop. Go to laugh.” –Suzanne Falk

361. “Stay out of the teacher’s lounge.”
–Becky Maxwell

362. “Work with your coworkers. Plan together, laugh together, talk with one another.”
–Trella Collins

363. “Make friends with the school secretary and custodian. This will make a teacher’s life so much easier. My first year, the school secretary saved my behind on several occasions.”
–Sandy Simmons

364. “Avoid negativity. If that means staying out of the teacher’s lounge or seeking out a positive mentor, do it. Children can feel your enthusiasm, and your happy outlook will be contagious. You are on stage every day; make each day the best one possible for every child you come in contact with so they can pay it forward, too. You have a tremendous power to impact a little person’s life at every turn; be the best shepherd you can be.” –Heather White

365. “Ask questions of your peers. No matter how long you’ve taught, you don’t know everything—especially when education is so fluid. New reading series, new technology, new math, Common Core, change of grade levels, change of administration, change of schools...the list is never ending. Asking for help or expressing confusion is not a sign of weakness.” –Christina Demonbreun

366. “The most important thing to keep me going as an educator is to have a strong support system. Teachers have one of the most demanding and stressful jobs, and having someone to support you, listen to you, and encourage you along the way will help you through your toughest days and years. If you don’t currently have someone at work or at home who is your biggest fan, seek out another teacher or friend who will check on you and cheer you on throughout the year. It will make a tremendous difference in your outlook as an educator!” –Bonnie Riner

367. “Collaborate with your colleagues. There are so many great ideas out there, and we are stronger when we work together!” –Lori Ingles
368. “Teaching is time consuming, especially as standards change. A grade-level team really should work as a team in order to generate the best ideas and produce the highest quality projects and instruction for students. This way, everyone still has a little bit of personal time at home.” –Barbara Jablonski

369. “Ask a lot of questions of veteran teachers!”
–Bekka Erickson

370. “Collaborate with other teachers in your grade level at your school and other schools in your area, if possible. Teachers, especially those with many years of experience, are full of teaching strategies, classroom-management ideas, organization techniques, ways to deal with difficult parents, etc. Sometimes it takes someone outside of a situation to come up with a fresh idea. Take advantage of this free resource right in your own building!” –Laine Everhart

371. “Don’t be afraid to ask fellow teachers for advice. They are one of the best support systems you will have throughout the year.”
–Christal Napohaku

372. “Build relationships with all those who you come in contact with: students, families, fellow teachers, paras, custodians, cooks, nurses, counselors, bus drivers, secretaries, administration, outside agencies, etc.”
–Diana Remick

373. “Listen to each other, share with each other, support each other, be there for each other, and have plenty of chocolate on hand!”
–Mandy Ratledge

374. “Pick your battles. Compromise when you can, whether it’s with parents or administrators or even your students. Don’t be afraid to admit when you’ve made a mistake and apologize. Once you’ve established a positive relationship, it’ll be exponentially easier to come through unscathed when you can’t back down, when you didn’t make a mistake, and when you don’t compromise.” –Angela VanHoose

Taking Care of the Teacher

375. “This is the same advice a principal gave me when I began my career. It may sound strange, but she said, ‘Take care of your feet, because they take care of you.’ Best advice I ever got!”
–Sheryl Bernth

376. “Just breathe and know that you are doing your best! Be confident in yourself!”
–Katie Greener

377. “Maintain balance in your life. Being a teacher is an all-consuming role. Maintaining balance will help you continue to love it and not burn out.”
–Anna Payne

378. “Always remember you are human. Things won’t always go as planned, and you won’t always react to situations as you wish. Use these times as a way to grow and prepare for next time!”
–Becky King

379. “Remember to take care of yourself. As teachers we seem to forget to do this.”
–Erika Navarro Dix

380. “Get a lot of sleep!”
–Amanda Wren

381. “Don’t forget to live your life outside of teaching. If it doesn’t get done, no problem; relax and come back to it the next day. Your health and sanity rely on your balancing work and home.”
–Yanett Garcia

382. “Make sure that you have a life outside teaching. Work hard, play hard!”
–Marsha Kroeger

383. “Breathe, and when all else fails, buy some coffee and chocolate! Everything is always better in the morning, and never forget for whom and why you do your job!”
–Erynn McNeff
384. “No matter how many hours you research, write, and plan, there will never be enough hours in the day. So don’t beat yourself up; reward yourself for all you do. Take the time to take care of yourself.” –Cheryl Sugerman

385. “Take care of yourself. Be sure to set limits on the time you spend on school-related activities, and do things to keep yourself healthy—including spending quality time with family.” –Debbie Goodman

386. “Stay organized and take care of yourself! It is easy to start spending too much time at school and forget to spend time enjoying family and friends. Keeping a healthy balance in your life will make you happier and, in turn, make you a great teacher for your students!” –Cori Nelson

387. “Get plenty of sleep every night and take lots of vitamins!” –Cynthia Leggett

388. “Set aside days and times to focus on school work and time to relax and focus on the rest of your life. I find myself working constantly, but I finally realized that my ‘to do’ list is never ending. I decided to put a time limit to my ‘out of school’ work hours so that I still have time for a personal life, a good dinner, and most importantly, sleep! I chose Mondays and Wednesdays to stay late after school, no later than 6 p.m. I also limit myself to two hours of at-home work. I find that I’m keeping my sanity much more these days.” –Kyle Selliers

389. “Do not overload yourself with unnecessary extra work, such as making your classroom cute. Take time for yourself to relax and do what you need to do for your students to succeed.” –Lauren Zuetel

390. “Laugh. Laugh at yourself, laugh at colleagues, laugh at the hoops we have to jump through. Only then can you laugh with the students, and mean it.” –Kathie Howe

391. “Take one weekend day to yourself. If you work seven days a week on teaching, which we all could easily do, you’ll burn out.” –Amber Hodge

392. “Don’t say yes to everything. Take only the responsibilities you can truly handle. Remember, you are there for the children.” –Lyn Fromme

393. “You will make it through the day!” –Laura Patenaude

394. “Take time for yourself. Don’t work too hard, or you will make yourself sick. Remember that you can still be a good teacher and enjoy your evenings and weekends.” –Mandy Hopper

395. “Laughter is a great way to keep yourself sane and happy. Teaching is not for the faint of heart!” –Kay Derrick

396. “Don’t take things too seriously. Things will happen that are out of your control, and you can’t stew about it and let it engulf your life. Move on to bigger and better things.” –Danie Hilton

397. “You will have good days and bad days. We all do. Take the bad days as a learning adventure and the good days as a time to breathe.” –Crystal Shepherd

398. “Make time for yourself…if at all possible!” –Susan Arbogast

399. “Get plenty of rest and have a good sense of humor!” –Dana Arthur
400. “Try to make sure you don’t stress over little things.” –Heather Ater

401. “Make sure you take time for yourself, especially to decompress when you’ve had one of those stressful days.” –Marcy Bergren

402. “Keep your sense of humor, and you will continue to love teaching throughout your career.” –Carol Brackin

403. “Just know that a student’s success is not the true measurement of how good a teacher you are. No matter what anyone says, teachers are human and should not be held accountable because a child refuses to learn and a parent provides the teacher with no support.” –Diane Schultz

404. “No matter how hard things get, tomorrow starts a new day.” –Lindzi Bradley

405. “Take time for yourself.” –Samantha Braun

406. “Be organized, prepared, and rested.” –Pam Breitung

407. “Remember to respect yourself and take time for you. It will make you a much more effective educator if you are not burned out. It shows!” –Rhonda Greer

408. “Take it all one day at a time.” –Meagan Brinkman

409. “Find something you enjoy doing away from school. This is helpful when you have had a really stressful day. You can use this hobby as a way to relax and refresh.” –Ami Burch

410. “Laugh a lot and smile!” –Heather Burnett

411. “Love what you do, and do what you love! When feeling overwhelmed, as many of us do at times, focus on one thing that you want to do well. Take steps to do that one thing well, and then add on a new challenge once you have mastered that skill. You can eat the elephant, but only one bite at a time!” –Mindy Buxton Yoos


413. “Hang in there!” –Kim Carter

414. “Relax, take a deep breath, reflect, and try again tomorrow!” –Alexa Coffer

415. “Get enough sleep, pick your battles, stay calm, keep organized, and if all else fails, tomorrow is always a new day!” –Mikki Cornfield

416. “No matter what happens—how hectic your day is, how overwhelming your workload is, how much an administrator is frustrating you, whether you are being told you’re not doing something right or are being asked why you aren’t doing it better, how underpaid you are, how much you want to give up—remember, you are there for your students. As long as you stay true to that, you have done your job perfectly.” –Michele Giordano

417. “Stay home and rest when you are sick. Otherwise, you just spread the illness around!” –Andrea Porth

418. “Pick your battles and be kind to yourself!” –Vicki Denny

419. “Wake up, head to school, and have the best day of your life. Smile!” –Lynn Reardon

420. “Relax and remember to breathe (sometimes deeply—while counting to 10!).” –Pat Douglas
421. “Be kind to your students and yourself. Do not blame yourself, but rather praise the efforts of your students and yourself when times get tough.” –Yenny Villar

422. “Be good to yourself. Spend the money you need to spend to make your classroom organized and less cluttered. You save money in the long run by saving your valuable time.” –Jackie Oliver

423. “My best teaching advice is to get a good night’s sleep. You need to be prepared for so many unplanned events that you need to be quick on your feet and thinking clearly.” –Dolores Hennessy

424. “Teach from your heart. You have to love your kids, and they have to know you love them. If not, nothing you do will matter.” –Heather Adams

425. “Don’t get caught up in the daily stresses. Remember, we’re there to make a difference in lives... and we do each day!” –Amy DuCuennois

426. “Treat the children you educate as if they were your own children.” –Jessica Adkins

427. “Grab kids’ attention and help them learn through songs. I’m always making up my own and using music videos, too!” –Robin Adler

428. “Take it one day at a time!” –Kelly Essick

429. “Be passionate about it! The more you love those kids and love to teach, the greater the success and reward.” –Jillian Albee

430. “Be fun!” –Margaret Alden Roderick

431. “Don’t stop trying until you find what works for each individual child in your class.” –Debbie Alper

432. “There will be days when nothing goes as planned and you want to cry because you are so overwhelmed and frustrated. But the moment you see a student make a new gain or accomplishment lets you know it was worth it.” –Patrice Alvarado

433. “Stay positive and keep your focus on your students. Try not to worry about all the other ‘stuff’ that comes with being a teacher.” –Amanda Applegate

434. “Know your students. Teach from your heart.” –Teresa Arcangel

435. “Make learning fun!” –Jodi Darter

436. “Be yourself in the classroom. There are so many different styles and ways to teach and run a classroom. There is no ‘right’ way. Do what works best for you, and the room, class, and year will flow more smoothly.” –Cherissa Avon

437. “Get to know your students and what makes them tick. Great relationships will always take you farther than great content. If your students know you care about them, they want to impress you and work hard.” –Molly Beck

438. “Ask for help when you need it, be happy with small victories, and love your students!” –Jennifer White

439. “Find the fun in learning. Keep it light. Always be patient, as it is easy to get overwhelmed.” –Serina Zuniga
440. “All children have gifts—they just open them at different times.” –Shelly Bentley

441. “Always be the light that shines in the classroom. Give the children a reason to want to come back.” –Natasha Spencer

442. “Love your job!” –Gillian Biggers

443. “Check Really Good Stuff’s clearance section often!” –Rosa Smith

444. “Learn something new every day, and find something to laugh about every day. To quote Muhammad Ali, ‘Don’t count the days, make the days count.’” –Susan Young

445. “No matter how rough your day is, remember that school may be the best part of some of your students’ days!” –Brandi Bloomberg

446. “Let the fruit of your labor add to building positive character traits among all your students.” –Mary Sue Boles

447. “Every student has a different story. You become part of their memories forever. Make those days count, and let each page be better than the last.” –Kelly Braunagel

448. “Follow your heart, always keep your students’ best interests in mind, and do your best to make learning fun and engaging for all students!” –Jessica Breen Carney

449. “Be positive and ask for help from your team. They may have the answers for you.” –Angela Breneman

450. “Love your kids and do what’s best for them.” –Angela Brown

451. “Bring an optimistic and enthusiastic attitude to school with you every day; it spreads to the students!” –Michelle Brown

452. “Always listen to what a child is saying, because you might be the only person he or she trusts enough to tell something.” –Jennifer Bryant

453. “Building relationships with the students is just as important as teaching them.” –Michelle Bump

454. “Don’t spend your time doing anything in the classroom that your students can safely and appropriately do themselves!” –Stephanie Burdett

455. “Never, ever let administration get you down.” –Denise Camano

456. “Have patience. Think about and model the way you would want your child treated and taught.” –Heather Campbell

457. “Be true to yourself and your students. Always love what you do. If you fill your students’ buckets with the love of learning, they will fill your bucket with love.” –Emma Campbell

458. “Always laugh at the end of the day because it will help you get through the tough days.” –Lisa Cantwell
459. “Be patient as you help each child reach his or her full potential in your class. Humor and singing go a long way!” –Fran Carnes

460. “Always be willing to laugh, think, and consider. Pick your battles and celebrate your victories. Embrace your losses and know that they will only make you better. Enjoy each and every moment, and never close yourself off to any person, idea, or experience.” –Anne Marie Carroll

461. “No matter what your teaching experience is, there is always something new to learn. Never stop learning!” –Norma Cinco

462. “There will be days when you feel incredibly overwhelmed, maybe a little inadequate, and in way over your head. You will hear some people tell you how much you’re overpaid and underworked. On those days, remember why you chose your profession, or rather, why it chose you—the children. Always do what’s best for kids, and the rest will fall into place.” –Kelli Claflin

463. “Teaching is the opportunity to create a lifelong love of learning. Even if it’s in one child, it’s more gratifying than anything else you will achieve in life. Teach with passion and pride. The students will follow, because passion is contagious.” –Tim Coomer

464. “You are not going to accomplish everything in one day. You made a difference today, and you will make a difference tomorrow.” –M.J. Coward


466. “Keep calm and teach on! Tomorrow is a new day and a new opportunity.” –Vanessa Deskins

467. “Put things in your classroom that you enjoy looking at. You will be there every day, and you want it to feel like home when you open your classroom door each morning.” –Casey Crumbley

468. “Be patient and love what you do. Remember that the future of your society and your own future are in your hands! Do the best you can do, and keep trying!” –Sandra Cruz

469. “Remember, every day is different! So, every morning put on your best smile and get going!” –Teresa Detwiler

470. “Always focus on what matters: the students. Never let all the ‘red tape’ get you down. Life is too short to worry! What you do in the classroom will affect your students for a lifetime!” –Tammy Dowell

471. “Just be patient and take it one child at a time. Don’t overwhelm yourself, and when things get hectic, just take a moment and breathe. The love of a child will warm your heart.” –Karen Wilkes

472. “Pause after asking a question. Then pause more. Let them think!” –Maureen Donnelly

473. “Remember, they are children.” –Rose Norris

474. “Be positive at all times, and know that all kids need love and devotion to succeed.” –Heather Elliott

475. “Sit back and take a deep breath. First, what are your goals for the kids’ social and emotional well-being? Foster that. Second, think about curriculum goals. What do they really have to know? How can you make that interesting and relevant? Focus on those. Third, stay organized. Don’t reinvent the wheel, and ask for help!” –Barbara Sturtevant

Techniques

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476. “Let them learn at their own pace. Make sure they master something before moving on.”
   –Joann Holt

477. “Have students wear an inexpensive mitten or glove on their free hand as an eraser for dry erase boards.”
   –Sandra Stanley

478. “Be consistent and flexible.”
   –Bobbi Jo Worrell

479. “Color-code and label things so the students can be more self-sufficient, too!”
   –Michelle Fretz

480. “Stay calm! Never let them know that you don’t have the answer or a plan.”
   –Linda Douglas

481. “Be fair but firm, funky, and fun. Have a great sense of humor. Do this and you can teach anyone.”
   –Reva Gomer

482. “Over the last couple of decades, education has gone from emphasizing the need for children to develop all modalities to narrowing the scope to just teaching reading and math in the elementary years. The pendulum swings could make one seasick! Having students do journaling is one of the best ways to keep things in balance. You can help meet the state and national objectives of the moment, plus incorporate important aspects of education/child development that may not be in vogue, but you know are still critical.”
   –Marilyn Wright

483. “Use every moment as a teachable moment.”
   –Kimberly Wallace

484. “Don’t forget to smell the roses with your students. When it is time to celebrate, do it! Have fun teaching!”
   –Elizabeth VandeSande

485. “Always stay calm and try not to rush what you are doing. If you hurry through, you will be revisiting it again.”
   –Doedee Vann

486. “Model everything! Then have the kids model it, both the right way and the wrong way. Make rules with your class, and have the kids review them and explain them on an ongoing basis, especially for younger students.”
   –Jennifer Sheerin

487. “Teach your students to the best of their knowledge. Then take it up two levels. They will become respectful and ready to learn more.”
   –Kristi Wadsworth

488. “Make your students’ time with you wonderful!”
   –Leea Shelton

489. “Pre-assess, teach, assess, re-teach, assess.”
   –Wendy O’Neill

490. “Photos! Take photos of your students and use them for everything: helpers, birthdays, bulletin-board labels, parent gifts. Have students hold a message for their parents, volunteers, or student teachers. You can use them for so many things!”
   –Tammy Hill

491. “Just be who you are.”
   –Dana Smith

492. “When creating an activity, try to anticipate questions that students will ask. Also, for older students, try to find the ‘loopholes’ that some of them always look for, and close them!”
   –Brenda Williams

493. “All children can learn. Some just take us down a different path to teach them. Listen to your students, love them as your own, and in the end they will remember who taught them best!”
   –Amy Hutton

494. “Intervention groups really work for struggling students.”
   –Lettie Rillieux
495. “You should always try to build on what students already know. They need something to hook that new learning to. You should make your students comfortable enough to take risks in their learning.” –Donna Mollica

496. “Type up a ‘morning letter’ to your students. Say good morning, share something personal, and then list the work/activities that they will be responsible for throughout the day. I teach in a multi-graded classroom, and this has worked for me for 20+ years. The positive things are that kids learn to read and follow directions, they are on task when I am working with others, and they know what is expected of them. I swear by this, as it has had really good results. It works wonderfully as a class-management tool, as there is no excuse for not knowing what you should be doing.” –Karen Worley

497. “Don’t get so stressed that you forget to make memories with your students. You might be the only positive interaction they have in their lives.” –Pam Williams

498. “Make your classroom an extra special place to learn by decorating with a theme. I get super excited each year when I put my room together (with great items from Really Good Stuff) and see my students enter the wonderful world of learning I have created for them!” –Robbin Treadway

499. “You must trust your gut. Those people writing the curricula are not in a classroom; they do not have children in front of them. You know what your kids need. Do your best, and the rest will figure itself out.” –Regina Stimson

500. “Be serious about what you are teaching, but have a great time teaching. Children are the future, and they need us!” –Marsha Peters

501. “Use clear shoe boxes with labels to organize supplies and materials. The kids love them, there’s never a question as to what’s in them, and they are easy to store!” –Misty Mukherjee

502. “Teachers should provide consistent daily practice with math facts and vocabulary. There are many computer games for fact review. Vocabulary should include testing words that are reviewed daily throughout the school year. This would be in addition to content-area vocabulary.” –Jackie Perkins

503. “Keep everything simple. Do your posters and anchor charts with the kids.” –Alejandra Paez

504. “Try to bring as much real life into the classroom as possible. Connections make a difference!” –Sharon Hall

505. “Don’t ask a question when you are really giving a direction.” –Penny Miller

506. “Apologize to your students when you need to, as many have never had an adult tell them they are sorry and made a mistake.” –Sherrie Rebel

507. “Teach vocabulary in everything you do in your classroom. Not only will it help your English Language Learners, but it will help all students!” –Tiffany Miller

508. “Start every day fresh and energetic. Students will act on the positive energy you model. Be the positive person in every student’s life.” –Tanya Perreault

509. “Breathe, and know that whatever it is, you will survive it. It’s not the end of the world.” –Jamie Reese
510. “Have the students work with partners or in teams to practice new concepts with whiteboards.” –Mary Silverman

511. “Instead of putting an ‘X’ on incorrect answers, I circle the number of the problem that the student missed. This serves many purposes. It encourages, rather than discourages, students. It also allows me to reassess those students who need to recheck their work without giving the answer. And last, but not least, it gives me the opportunity to have students learn from their mistakes. I sometimes have students correct their mistakes on another piece of paper. I have already graded and know which problems are incorrect, but the students are more positive with this method.” –Tammy Pinnella

512. “It’s important to ‘catch’ students before we teach them. I preface a new topic with a joke, a favorite song/movie/app, or a 20-question chance to Guess My Topic.” –Marsha Rogers

513. “Rather than feed them answers, allow your students to discover answers on their own as much as possible.” –Daa Mahowald

514. “Use the mistakes you make in class to show your students that everyone makes mistakes. It’s okay to make mistakes; we all learn from them.” –Sheryl Schmidt

515. “Redecorate and freshen up to make yourself feel great.” –Mary Fowlkes

516. “Use classroom helpers to help you run the room so you are free to teach. Anything my students can do I let them do. This keeps me from feeling like I’m doing too many small clean-ups, errands, etc.” –Sabrena Melton

517. “Keep the students active. Have them stand up and move around their chairs. Have them do all kinds of stretches and jumping jacks. From time to time I throw a very soft rubber ball to them to get them moving and paying attention. They need to move! Study after study has cited that physical activity helps promote brain activity!” –June Roberts

518. “Always have some morning work on each desk in the morning. This will give students review on what you’ve been teaching. It will also give you time to take lunch count, attendance, and a breath before the fast-paced teaching day begins again!” –Susie Krupa

519. “In elementary grades, keep running records of students’ skills. I do it every two weeks. I chart it so when I have conferences I can show it to the parents, and they can see the growth or lack thereof. It has helped a lot in the past few years to reinforce the grades I give them on their standards-based report cards.” –Martina Kill

520. “If you ever get worried and feel like you don’t know if what you’re doing is good enough, that’s good; it means you’re smart and you care about what you’re doing.” –Leslie Sharkey

521. “Make your room comfortable for you. Decorate your classroom with colors and themes that you like or can live with for 10+ hours a day.” –Janet Roller

522. “The pencil sharpener does not work after 7:45 because I can’t stand the noise. Students have their own small sharpeners. Each team has a recycled sour-cream container to dump the shavings into. That stops the mess from ending up on the floor.” –Amy Louden

523. “Always think about your students. Following curriculum resources won’t benefit your students as much as responding to their needs will.” –Lisa Hendricks
524. “Sometimes listening is just as important as speaking. You have to learn what the child’s needs are, and the best place to learn is the child himself.” –Angie Munoz

525. “Celebrate all success, no matter how big or small. It helps develop confidence in each student.” –Sara Fox

526. “Have all your materials filed by standard so you can find them easily. Keep your parent-contact info, student tests, and small-group info and activities organized in separate, labeled binders.” –Stacy Gnibus

527. “Read Harry Wong’s First Day of School book and shop ReallyGoodStuff.com often!” –Angela Griffis

528. “Teach what you love!” –Marianne Griffith

529. “Pick one day a month to stay late and work in your room. It will keep work from piling up on you, and make packing up at the end of the year easier without having to live in your room.” –Nicole Gores

530. “Remember your favorite teacher and emulate him.” –Patricia Montarella

531. “As a kindergarten teacher I have learned the importance of setting solid routines and being sure to make each day fun. This past year, I lost one of my little ones, and I realized that all those tests scores and data didn’t matter in the end. I decided that, although they have their place, it is vital that each child experience something fun every day!” –Jessica Kennan

532. “You are there for the students, not the crazy paperwork and changes that happen every year. Focus on the kids, not the crazy stuff.” –Courtney Kraft

533. “Find the best in every child every day, and be your best for them!” –Katie Macrafic

534. “Stick with it! It is important that, as teachers, we continue to use various teaching strategies that help students learn. I have learned that students hate worksheets, but love art, games, and technology. Last year I used Legos® to teach writing and math concepts. The students enjoyed it, and so did the teacher. This school year I will be teaching a split 2/3, and I wrote a grant called ‘Get in the Game of Learning.’ I will be using educational games to teach math and reading concepts. This is an excellent idea, as it allows the teacher to work with small groups during math and reading block! Remember to stick with it and use various teaching strategies that help students learn and have fun!” –Pamela McGruder

535. “Be the teacher you’d want to have!” –Karen Kennedy

536. “Activate learning by engaging as many modalities as possible. Use music, movement, and touch to provide multisensory activities.” –Debbie King

537. “When you want to find out whether students know the correct answer, rather than asking one student for the answer, take a survey and have students vote for the answer they feel is correct. This way you get an instant view of where the students stand in their knowledge.” –Laura Gehring Ottinger
538. “All children are different. They come to us with different life experiences, stories, ways of learning, and journeys ahead of them. Remember to teach them all differently because of this. Oh, and remember to use the bathroom just before the last bell in the morning. The next chance you get might not be until lunch.”
--Kristin Gembis

539. “Use visuals to teach new vocabulary, and do hand gestures for every single new word you introduce to the students. This is a great resource that works very well for ELL.”
--Vanessa Culasso Medansky

540. “As testing approaches, don’t forget why you teach. It’s not all about the test. It’s about the children.”
--Anna Adams

541. “Build a positive relationship with your students. That rapport will be far more important than a test grade.”
--Amy Cameron

542. “Teach to the child, not to the test.”
--Hallie Dahms

543. “Listen! We often do the talking as adults and sometimes forget to listen and really hear what the kids have to say. Sometimes I feel like teachers seek progress through test results and not by listening to their students to see their growth. I understand this is how we have been taught, because of state mandated testing. But if you really want to know what a student is learning, let him or her do the talking, and just listen.”
--Nancy Danese

544. “Make it fun. Use music, plays, crayons, etc. Forget about the test scores. Fill their heads with the knowledge in fun, exciting ways, and the test will take care of itself!”
--Colette Eason