

THE RESPONSIBLE THINKING CLASSROOM

Introduction

These introductory notes are generalizations and not meant to be all-inclusive regarding today's youngest generation. Let's proceed.

Children are growing up, today, without the Responsible Thinking that they need. Many of them lack the ability to cooperate with parents, teachers, and peers. They haven't learned to obey rules, and they haven't learned self-discipline. For these reasons, the Arkansas Youth Camp (AYC) Director has taken steps to introduce the Responsible Thinking Classroom.

The Responsible Thinking Classroom

1. The Responsible Thinking Classroom is a place where campers are taught the necessary skills for getting along in the camp environment.
2. The Responsible Thinking Classroom is a place where campers are taught the skills needed to do the following:
 - to get along with their teachers, counselors, administrators, peers.
 - to make an effective performance plan for improving behavior.
 - to develop the skill of self-discipline.
3. The Responsible Thinking Classroom is a place where campers develop a growing sense that someone cares, and an attitude that "I can make it!"
4. The Responsible Thinking Classroom is a place to teach social skills to the disruptive camper before things personally get worse for that camper.
5. The Responsible Thinking Classroom is a place where the teacher will not amuse or pamper the camper.
6. The Responsible Thinking Classroom is a place where the teacher will not physically abuse, verbally abuse, or humiliate the camper.
7. The Responsible Thinking Classroom is a place where the camper may initially perceive the class as dull, boring, and not a typical classroom.
8. The Responsible Thinking Classroom is a place where the camper is treated with respect by a strict but fair and respectable teacher.
9. The Responsible Thinking Classroom is a place where the camper receives individual help with opportunity to succeed.
10. The Responsible Thinking Classroom is a place where the campers learn that others care about them.

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11. The Responsible Thinking Classroom is a place where the camper is taught self-control, also known as responsible thinking.
12. The Responsible Thinking Classroom is a place where campers choose to go when they refuse to obey the rules in any camp area.
13. The Responsible Thinking Classroom has as its purpose to assure the success of all campers who want to succeed.
14. A camper is never *sent* to the Responsible Thinking Classroom. Failure to obey the rules in any camp area is tantamount to a camper's choice to go to the Responsible Thinking Classroom.

The Responsible Thinking Classroom Atmosphere

1. The Responsible Thinking Classroom has a supervising teacher.
2. The Responsible Thinking Classroom teacher works individually with campers in the class.
3. The Responsible Thinking Classroom teacher is important to its success.
4. The Responsible Thinking Classroom teacher teaches how to construct an effective performance plan.
5. Parents may need to be contacted.
6. Camper performance plans may be coordinated with parents, campers, and teachers.
7. The Responsible Thinking Classroom teacher is a conduit for a camper to move through the most efficient process for individual success.

The Responsible Thinking Classroom Rules

1. Each camper will sit in a seat assigned by the Responsible Thinking Classroom teacher.
2. A camper is not permitted to talk with other campers in the Responsible Thinking Classroom.
3. A camper is not permitted to disrupt other campers in the Responsible Thinking Classroom.
4. Things a camper can do in the Responsible Thinking Classroom:
 - stare at wall
 - work on plan
 - read
 - put head on desk
 - sleep or rest (if necessary)
5. If a camper disrupts the Responsible Thinking Classroom, the camper has two choices:

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- a choice to act responsibly
 - a choice to go home until willing to obey the rules
6. If the camper chooses to go home, and then chooses to return to camp after going home, he must return to the Responsible Thinking Classroom and must follow the procedure required to return to the class from which he originally came to the Responsible Thinking Classroom.