Playful Classroom Management

Want to be playful with your classroom management?

Here are some teaching moves to try! Peek at the cards for examples from ISB Kindergarten classrooms. Of course, you'll also need to consider the classroom environment, schedule, and curriculum – all aspects of classroom management that support playful learning.

- Play with your voice whisper, or try a dramatic tone
- Use role-play and improvisation
- Tell stories and invite children to tell and act out stories

Use Music and Movement

- waiting times, or clean up Sing directions
- Use child-created claps, chants, or motions
- Share songs and movement to build community

Be a

Performer

Play with the Rules

- Share power with children, giving them chances to lead and be in charge
- Figure out which rules are non-negotiable, and stay flexible about other limits Allow time for messing around

Build Play

Relationships

Start with a relaxed, supported teacher with a

playful míndset

Use songs for transitions,

Make a relationship investment by joining the children in their play. Don't just supervise on the playground – play!

- Take on a role in the play, and guide behavior in character
- Be present with the children's ideas



...but know when to be serious.

Classroom management can't be playful all the time. Serious situations (injuries, teasing, etc.) call for serious teachers and clear limits.