

CLASSROOM TLC: Teachers Lawyers Children in Partnership



A SUCCESSFUL FIRST VISIT

The first visit by the lawyer will set the tone for the partnership. The following are some suggestions for helping to make it a success. These ideas were provided to us by previous participants.

TEACHER: Inform the students about the date and time of the first visit. Explain why the lawyer will be visiting. Make nametags for the students with their first names in large letters.

Ask the students to write questions they would like the lawyer to answer and send them to him/her prior to the first visit.

Have the students draw a picture of what a lawyer looks like and share these with the lawyer.

Invite the lawyer to observe the class without telling the students that he/she will be their Lawyer Partner. This will give the lawyer an opportunity to become familiar with the dynamics of the class.

Send the lawyer a seating chart with photo's of the students.

Have the students write a paragraph about what a lawyer does and send them to the lawyer.

LAWYER: If the students are wearing nametags or you have a seating chart, address the students by their first names.

Some simple introductory activities are "The Eraser Game" pg. 9, "Tests for Good Rules" pg. 9, and "Teaching About Contracts: pg. 6, (see Sure-Fire Presentations, Tab 2).

Another introductory activity is to tell the students a story about an average day in an imaginary person's life. Ask the students to raise their hand each time they hear something law-related. This activity is generally referred to as "Mindwalk" and helps students to understand the pervasiveness of law.

For example: "Last Monday, Tom Phillips decided to drive to visit his mother in the nursing home. Along the way he stopped for lunch. He also had to stop to fill his gas tank...". The students should recognize the underlined words as being law-related.