

Our Classroom Consequence Ladder

The order of steps I use in class, with a real example at each level — so we're always on the same page at home and at school.

How this works. Every student starts fresh each day, and we always begin at the bottom rung. Most moments are resolved with a simple reminder.

We only climb higher on the ladder when a behavior repeats or continues after the earlier steps.

1 Verbal Redirection GENTLE REMINDER

A quick, private reminder to help the child get back on track. This is where almost every school day starts and ends.

Looks like: *"I can see you're having a hard time focusing — let's get those eyes back on our reading."*

2 Empowering Choice STUDENT DECIDES

The child is offered two positive options that both lead back to success. This builds ownership, not just obedience.

Looks like: *"You can finish your writing here at your table, or at the quiet desk. You choose."*

3 Logical / Natural Consequence CONNECTED TO THE ACTION

The consequence matches the behavior, so the lesson makes real-world sense — not a random loss of privilege.

Looks like: *Rushed clean-up and left the blocks out? The child stays one extra minute to finish putting them away.*

4 Reflection Break SHORT RESET

A short, calm break away from the group to cool down and think through a better choice — then rejoin class the same day.

Looks like: *"Take 3–5 minutes at our reflection spot. When you're ready, we'll make a plan to rejoin the group."*

5 Family Note Home INFRACTION · DOCUMENTED

A written note describing the behavior comes home so we can partner together — this is a documented infraction. You'll always hear from me directly, too.

Looks like: *A signed note explains what happened and what we're working on — please sign and return it.*

6 Administrator Notification POSSIBLE REFERRAL

Reserved for safety-related behavior, or a third infraction. Our administrator is looped in and a formal referral is filed.

Looks like: *Admin is notified and may meet with the child; I will call you before or as this happens.*

Some behaviors skip the ladder SCHOOL POLICY

Per school policy, certain behaviors are recorded as an **infraction (step 5)** or sent straight to an **administrator referral (step 6)** the first time they happen. The earlier steps still happen alongside it — your child is redirected, given a choice, or takes a reflection break in the moment — the behavior is simply documented at step 5 or 6 as well. These typically include anything unsafe: hurting others, leaving the classroom or campus without permission, damaging property, or repeated defiance that stops the class from learning.

3 infractions = 1 referral

☐ ☐ ☐ → Referral

Infractions are counted across the year. Once a third note home is issued, it automatically becomes an administrator referral.

A partnership, not a punishment.

My goal at every step is to help your child learn to make strong choices — not just follow rules. If we ever reach steps 5 or 6, you will always hear from me directly first.

QUESTIONS ANYTIME

Email: _____

Phone / hours: _____