



# The First Days of School

By Harry Wong

# Book summary & main ideas

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## Summary:

The First Days of School by Harry Wong is a comprehensive guide to classroom management and teaching. It provides teachers with the tools they need to create an effective learning environment in their classrooms. The book covers topics such as setting expectations, establishing routines, developing relationships with students, managing discipline issues, and creating a positive learning atmosphere.

Wong begins by discussing the importance of having clear expectations for student behavior and performance from day one. He emphasizes that these expectations should be communicated clearly and consistently throughout the school year so

that students understand what is expected of them. He also stresses the importance of establishing routines early on in order to ensure that students know what is expected of them each day.

Next, Wong discusses how important it is for teachers to develop strong relationships with their students in order to foster a positive learning environment. He explains how building trust between teacher and student can help motivate students to do their best work while also helping them feel comfortable enough to ask questions or seek help when needed.

In addition, Wong addresses various strategies for dealing with discipline issues in the classroom including proactive approaches such as providing incentives for good behavior as well as reactive approaches like using logical consequences when necessary. Finally,

he outlines ways teachers can create a positive atmosphere in their classrooms through activities such as cooperative learning groups or class meetings.

Overall, *The First Days of School* provides valuable insight into classroom management techniques which are essential for any successful teacher-student relationship. By following its advice on setting expectations, establishing routines, developing relationships with students, managing discipline issues effectively and creating a positive learning atmosphere; teachers will be able to maximize student engagement while minimizing disruption within their classrooms.</p></div>

Main ideas:

**#1. *Establishing classroom procedures: Establishing classroom procedures is essential for creating an***

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***effective learning environment. It is important to have clear expectations and routines that are consistently enforced.***

Establishing classroom procedures is essential for creating an effective learning environment. It is important to have clear expectations and routines that are consistently enforced. This will help students understand what behavior is expected of them, as well as how they should interact with each other in the classroom. Establishing these procedures also helps create a sense of order and structure in the classroom, which can lead to better student engagement and improved academic performance.

When establishing classroom procedures, it is important to be consistent and fair. All students should be held accountable for following the rules, regardless of their

background or ability level. Additionally, it's important to provide positive reinforcement when students follow the rules so that they know their efforts are appreciated.

It's also helpful to involve your students in setting up the rules and expectations for your class. By allowing them some input into how things work in your class, you can foster a sense of ownership among your students while still maintaining control over what happens in your room.

***#2. Establishing a positive classroom environment: Creating a positive classroom environment is essential for student success. This includes having a positive attitude, being organized, and having a sense of humor.***

Establishing a positive classroom environment is essential for student

success. This means creating an atmosphere that encourages learning, collaboration, and respect. A teacher should strive to create an environment where students feel safe to express themselves and take risks without fear of judgement or ridicule. To do this, teachers must have a positive attitude towards their students and the material they are teaching.

Organization is also key in establishing a positive classroom environment. Having clear expectations for behavior as well as having materials readily available will help keep the class on track and focused on learning. Additionally, it's important to be flexible with assignments so that all students can succeed regardless of their individual needs.

Finally, having a sense of humor can go a long way in creating an enjoyable learning

experience for everyone involved. Humor helps break down barriers between teacher and student while still maintaining order in the classroom.

***#3. Establishing relationships with students: Establishing relationships with students is key to creating a successful learning environment. It is important to get to know each student and build trust and respect.***

Establishing relationships with students is key to creating a successful learning environment. It is important to get to know each student and build trust and respect. This can be done through activities such as getting-to-know-you games, icebreakers, or simply having conversations with the students about their interests and hobbies. Additionally, it is important for teachers to show genuine interest in their students' lives outside of

school by asking questions about what they did over the weekend or how their sports team did in its last game.

It is also beneficial for teachers to create an atmosphere where mistakes are seen as opportunities for growth rather than failures. By doing this, students will feel more comfortable taking risks and trying new things without fear of being judged or ridiculed. Furthermore, providing positive reinforcement when appropriate helps foster a sense of accomplishment among the students.

Finally, it is essential that teachers maintain open communication with parents so that everyone involved has a clear understanding of expectations and goals for each student's academic success. Establishing strong relationships between home and school creates an environment where all stakeholders have a vested

interest in helping each student reach his/her full potential.

***#4. Establishing rules and consequences: Establishing rules and consequences is necessary for creating an orderly classroom. It is important to be consistent and fair when enforcing rules and consequences.***

Establishing rules and consequences is essential for creating an orderly classroom. It is important to be consistent and fair when setting expectations for students, as well as when enforcing the rules. Rules should be clear and concise so that all students understand what behavior is expected of them. Consequences should also be clearly defined in advance, so that students know exactly what will happen if they break a rule.

It is important to explain why certain behaviors are unacceptable, rather than simply punishing those who misbehave without explanation. This helps foster understanding among the student body about why it's important to follow the rules. Additionally, it can help create a sense of respect between teachers and their students by showing that there are logical reasons behind each rule.

Finally, it's important to remember that establishing rules and consequences isn't just about discipline; it's also about teaching responsibility and helping children learn how to make good decisions on their own. By providing clear guidelines for acceptable behavior in the classroom, teachers can help ensure that their students have a safe learning environment where they can thrive.

## **#5.     *Establishing a classroom***

***culture: Establishing a classroom culture is important for creating a positive learning environment. It is important to create a culture of respect, collaboration, and mutual respect.***

Establishing a classroom culture is important for creating a positive learning environment. It is essential to create an atmosphere of respect, collaboration, and mutual respect in order to foster an effective learning experience. This can be done by setting clear expectations from the beginning of the school year and consistently reinforcing them throughout the year. Additionally, it is important to provide students with opportunities for meaningful participation in class activities and discussions so that they feel valued as part of the classroom community.

Creating a sense of belonging within your classroom will help build relationships

between teachers and students which are essential for successful teaching. Encouraging open communication between all members of the class will also help promote trust among everyone involved. Finally, providing recognition when appropriate will show students that their efforts are appreciated.

***#6. Establishing a classroom management system: Establishing a classroom management system is essential for creating an effective learning environment. It is important to have a system that is consistent and fair.***

Establishing a classroom management system is essential for creating an effective learning environment. It is important to have a system that is consistent and fair. This means having clear expectations, rules, and

consequences that are consistently enforced. The teacher should also provide positive reinforcement when students follow the rules or demonstrate good behavior.

The classroom management system should be discussed with the students at the beginning of the school year so they understand what is expected of them. The teacher can explain why certain behaviors are not allowed in class and how following the rules will help create an atmosphere conducive to learning. Additionally, it's important to involve students in setting up their own classroom guidelines so they feel ownership over their learning environment.

Finally, it's important for teachers to model appropriate behavior themselves as this sets an example for their students. By establishing a strong classroom

management system from day one, teachers can ensure that all members of their class feel safe and respected while fostering an environment where everyone can learn effectively.

***#7. Establishing a classroom discipline plan: Establishing a classroom discipline plan is necessary for creating an orderly classroom. It is important to have a plan that is consistent and fair.***

Establishing a classroom discipline plan is necessary for creating an orderly classroom. It is important to have a plan that is consistent and fair. The plan should be discussed with the students at the beginning of the school year, so they understand what behavior is expected of them. This will help set expectations and create an environment where learning can take place without disruption.

The plan should include consequences for misbehavior, such as verbal warnings or time-outs, as well as rewards for good behavior. Its also important to make sure that all students are held accountable in the same way; this helps ensure fairness and consistency throughout the class.

Its also essential to provide clear instructions when assigning tasks or activities in order to avoid confusion or misunderstandings among students. Additionally, its important to give positive reinforcement whenever possible; this encourages good behavior while helping build relationships between teachers and their students.

***#8. Establishing a classroom assessment system: Establishing a classroom assessment system is essential for creating an effective***

***learning environment. It is important to have a system that is consistent and fair.***

Establishing a classroom assessment system is essential for creating an effective learning environment. It is important to have a system that is consistent and fair, so that all students are held to the same standards. The assessment system should be tailored to the specific needs of each class, taking into account the age and ability level of the students. This will ensure that assessments are appropriate and meaningful.

The assessment system should also provide feedback on student performance in order to help them improve their skills. This can include both formative and summative assessments, such as tests, quizzes, projects, presentations or other

activities. Additionally, it should allow teachers to track progress over time so they can identify areas where students need additional support.

Finally, it's important for teachers to communicate clearly with their students about expectations for assignments and grading criteria. Establishing a classroom assessment system helps create an atmosphere of trust between teacher and student by providing clear guidelines for success.

***#9. Establishing a classroom grading system: Establishing a classroom grading system is necessary for creating an effective learning environment. It is important to have a system that is consistent and fair.***

Establishing a classroom grading system is necessary for creating an effective

learning environment. It is important to have a system that is consistent and fair, so that students understand the expectations of their performance in the class. The grading system should be clearly communicated to all students at the beginning of the school year, and it should be consistently applied throughout the course. This will help ensure that everyone understands what they need to do in order to achieve success.

The grading system should also take into account different types of assignments and activities, such as tests, projects, presentations, group work, etc., so that each student can demonstrate their knowledge in multiple ways. Additionally, feedback from teachers on how well students are doing should be provided regularly so that they can adjust their approach if needed.

Finally, it's important for teachers to explain why certain grades were given out when asked by students or parents. This helps build trust between teacher and student/parent while also providing valuable insight into how best to improve future performance.

***#10. Establishing a classroom communication system: Establishing a classroom communication system is essential for creating an effective learning environment. It is important to have a system that is consistent and clear.***

Establishing a classroom communication system is essential for creating an effective learning environment. It is important to have a system that is consistent and clear. This includes setting expectations for student behavior, establishing rules and consequences,

providing feedback on assignments, communicating with parents, and more. A good communication system should be tailored to the individual needs of each class or group of students. For example, some classes may need more structure than others while some may require less.

When developing a classroom communication system it is important to consider how best to communicate with students in order to ensure they understand the expectations set forth by the teacher. This could include using visuals such as posters or charts outlining rules and procedures; verbal reminders during instruction; written notes sent home with students; emails sent out regularly; or even text messages sent directly from teachers.

It is also important for teachers to provide regular feedback on student progress so

that they can adjust their teaching strategies accordingly. This could include giving praise when appropriate, offering constructive criticism when needed, providing additional resources if necessary, and recognizing accomplishments both big and small.

By having an effective classroom communication system in place it will help create an atmosphere where everyone feels comfortable expressing themselves without fear of judgement or ridicule. It will also allow teachers to better monitor student progress which can lead to improved academic performance overall.

***#11. Establishing a classroom organization system: Establishing a classroom organization system is necessary for creating an effective learning environment. It is important to***

***have a system that is consistent and organized.***

Establishing a classroom organization system is necessary for creating an effective learning environment. It is important to have a system that is consistent and organized. This includes having clear expectations for student behavior, setting up the physical space of the classroom in an efficient manner, and establishing procedures for activities such as transitioning between tasks or taking attendance. Additionally, it can be helpful to create systems for organizing materials such as textbooks, notebooks, and other supplies.

When designing your classroom organization system, consider how you will communicate these expectations to students. Establishing rules and routines should be done at the beginning of each

school year so that students understand what is expected of them from day one. Additionally, make sure that all students are aware of any changes or updates throughout the year.

Finally, it's important to remember that no two classrooms are alike; therefore there isn't one "right way" to organize your class. Take time to reflect on what works best for you and your students in order to create an effective learning environment.

***#12. Establishing a classroom safety plan: Establishing a classroom safety plan is essential for creating an effective learning environment. It is important to have a plan that is consistent and clear.***

Establishing a classroom safety plan is essential for creating an effective learning environment. It is important to have a plan

that is consistent and clear. The plan should include rules, procedures, and expectations for the students in order to ensure their safety and well-being. Rules should be established regarding appropriate behavior, such as no running or roughhousing in the classroom; procedures should be outlined on how to handle emergencies; and expectations should be set about what kind of behavior will not be tolerated.

The teacher must also make sure that all students understand the safety plan by providing instruction on it during class time. This can include role playing scenarios so that students are aware of what they need to do if there is an emergency situation. Additionally, teachers can provide visual reminders around the room with posters or signs outlining the safety rules.

Finally, it's important for teachers to review the safety plan regularly with their classes so that everyone remains familiar with it. By having a comprehensive classroom safety plan in place, teachers can create an environment where students feel safe and secure while learning.

***#13. Establishing a classroom technology plan: Establishing a classroom technology plan is necessary for creating an effective learning environment. It is important to have a plan that is consistent and clear.***

Establishing a classroom technology plan is necessary for creating an effective learning environment. It is important to have a plan that is consistent and clear. The plan should include guidelines on how the technology will be used in the classroom, such as when it can be used, what types of activities are appropriate for

using the technology, and any rules or expectations related to its use.

Additionally, it should also outline procedures for troubleshooting technical issues and provide guidance on how students can access help if needed.

The plan should also address safety concerns related to using technology in the classroom. This includes setting limits on internet usage, monitoring student activity online, establishing protocols for handling cyberbullying or other inappropriate behavior online, and providing resources about digital citizenship. Finally, teachers need to ensure that their classrooms are equipped with up-to-date hardware and software so that students have access to all of the tools they need.

***#14. Establishing a classroom behavior plan: Establishing a classroom behavior plan is essential***

***for creating an effective learning environment. It is important to have a plan that is consistent and clear.***

Establishing a classroom behavior plan is essential for creating an effective learning environment. It is important to have a plan that is consistent and clear. The plan should include expectations for student behavior, consequences for not following the rules, and rewards for positive behaviors. Additionally, it should be discussed with students at the beginning of each school year or semester so they understand what is expected of them.

The teacher should also provide examples of appropriate behaviors in different situations such as during class discussions, group work activities, or when working independently. This will help students understand how to act appropriately in various scenarios.

Furthermore, teachers can use visuals such as posters or charts to remind students about the expectations throughout the year.

Finally, it's important to remember that establishing a classroom behavior plan isn't just about punishing bad behavior; it's also about rewarding good behavior. Teachers can create incentives like extra recess time or special privileges if students follow the rules consistently over time.

***#15. Establishing a classroom attendance system: Establishing a classroom attendance system is necessary for creating an effective learning environment. It is important to have a system that is consistent and clear.***

Establishing a classroom attendance system is necessary for creating an

effective learning environment. It is important to have a system that is consistent and clear. This will help ensure that students are present in class, on time, and ready to learn. The teacher should explain the expectations of the attendance policy at the beginning of each school year or semester so that all students understand what is expected of them.

The teacher should also create a tracking system for recording student absences and tardiness. This can be done through paper forms or digital systems such as online gradebooks or apps specifically designed for tracking attendance. The tracking system should include information about when students were absent, how long they were absent, and any notes from parents regarding their absence.

Finally, it's important to follow up with students who are frequently absent or late

in order to identify any underlying issues that may be preventing them from attending class regularly. By establishing an effective classroom attendance system, teachers can ensure that all students have equal access to instruction and support throughout the school year.

***#16. Establishing a classroom motivation system: Establishing a classroom motivation system is essential for creating an effective learning environment. It is important to have a system that is consistent and motivating.***

Establishing a classroom motivation system is essential for creating an effective learning environment. It is important to have a system that rewards students for positive behavior and encourages them to strive for excellence in their studies. The system should be

tailored to the individual needs of each student, as well as the overall goals of the class. Rewards can include verbal praise, tangible items such as stickers or small prizes, or even extra credit points.

The key to success with any classroom motivation system is consistency. Students need to know what behaviors are expected of them and how they will be rewarded when they meet those expectations. This helps create an atmosphere where students feel comfortable taking risks and trying new things without fear of failure or punishment.

Its also important that teachers provide feedback on student performance so that students understand why certain behaviors are being rewarded or punished. This helps build trust between teacher and student while also providing valuable insight into how each student learns best.

Finally, it's important that teachers recognize progress made by their students over time rather than just focusing on immediate results. Celebrating successes both big and small can help keep morale high in the classroom while encouraging further growth.

***#17. Establishing a classroom collaboration system: Establishing a classroom collaboration system is necessary for creating an effective learning environment. It is important to have a system that is consistent and encourages collaboration.***

Establishing a classroom collaboration system is necessary for creating an effective learning environment. A successful collaboration system should be consistent and encourage students to work together in order to achieve their goals. It

should also provide opportunities for students to share ideas, ask questions, and receive feedback from peers and teachers. The system should also allow for easy access to resources such as textbooks, online materials, or other educational tools.

In order to create a successful classroom collaboration system, it is important that the teacher sets clear expectations of how the class will collaborate with each other. This includes setting ground rules on how students can interact with one another during group activities or discussions. Additionally, it is important that the teacher provides guidance on how best to use technology within the classroom in order to facilitate collaborative learning experiences.

Finally, it is essential that teachers monitor student progress throughout the course of

their studies in order ensure they are meeting their individual goals while working collaboratively with others. By establishing a strong foundation of trust between all members of the class through open communication and mutual respect, teachers can foster an environment where everyone feels comfortable contributing ideas and engaging in meaningful dialogue.

***#18. Establishing a classroom instruction system: Establishing a classroom instruction system is essential for creating an effective learning environment. It is important to have a system that is consistent and clear.***

Establishing a classroom instruction system is essential for creating an effective learning environment. It is important to have a system that is

consistent and clear. This includes having rules, procedures, and expectations that are clearly communicated to students from the first day of school. The teacher should also provide explicit instructions on how to complete tasks in the classroom, such as taking notes or participating in group activities. Additionally, it is important for teachers to create opportunities for student engagement by providing meaningful feedback and allowing students time to practice skills.

The teacher should also establish routines so that students know what will happen each day in class. These routines can include things like morning meetings or daily check-ins with individual students. Establishing these routines helps create structure and consistency within the classroom which allows students to feel safe and secure while they learn.

Finally, it is important for teachers to be flexible when establishing their instruction system so that they can adjust based on student needs or interests throughout the year. By being open-minded about different approaches, teachers can ensure their instruction system remains relevant and engaging.

***#19. Establishing a classroom evaluation system: Establishing a classroom evaluation system is necessary for creating an effective learning environment. It is important to have a system that is consistent and fair.***

Establishing a classroom evaluation system is necessary for creating an effective learning environment. It allows teachers to assess student progress and identify areas of improvement, while also providing students with feedback on their

performance. A good evaluation system should be consistent and fair, taking into account the individual needs of each student. The system should also provide clear expectations for both teachers and students in order to ensure that everyone understands what is expected from them.

When setting up a classroom evaluation system, it is important to consider the type of assessment that will be used. This could include traditional tests or quizzes, as well as more creative methods such as projects or presentations. Additionally, it is important to establish criteria for grading so that all students are held accountable for their work in a consistent manner.

Finally, it is essential to create an atmosphere where feedback can be given openly and honestly without fear of retribution or criticism. This encourages open dialogue between teacher and

student which can help foster better understanding between both parties.

***#20. Establishing a classroom problem-solving system: Establishing a classroom problem-solving system is essential for creating an effective learning environment. It is important to have a system that is consistent and encourages problem-solving.***

Establishing a classroom problem-solving system is essential for creating an effective learning environment. It should be designed to help students develop the skills they need to solve problems independently and collaboratively. The system should include strategies such as brainstorming, role playing, and cooperative learning activities that allow students to practice their problem-solving skills in a safe and supportive environment. Additionally, it is important to

provide clear expectations for how students are expected to behave when faced with challenging situations. This could include guidelines on how conflicts should be addressed or what types of behavior are acceptable in the classroom.

In order for this system to work effectively, teachers must model appropriate problem-solving behaviors themselves. They can do this by demonstrating active listening techniques, providing positive reinforcement when students use good problem-solving strategies, and offering constructive feedback when needed. Teachers should also create opportunities for open dialogue between themselves and their students so that any issues can be discussed openly without fear of judgement or criticism.

By establishing a consistent classroom problem-solving system that encourages

collaboration among peers while teaching valuable life skills, teachers will foster an atmosphere where all learners feel comfortable taking risks and engaging in meaningful conversations about difficult topics.

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