**ESSAY ASSIGNMENT**

* **TITLE: Keeping good attendance for children**
* **NAME: MICA**
* **CLASS NUMBER: TESOL154TC**

Boris Johnson said, It is easy to make promises - it is hard work to keep them.”

As a teacher, we make class room rules for kids, but it’s not easy to make kids keep them well especially in terms of attendance.

When I was a student in high school, I was often late for school. Our classroom had a rule regarding attendance. We should be in class by 7:30 AM. If we were late, we were told to squat 50 times while holding our ears as a punishment. We got the same punishment no matter if we were late for 5 min or 10 min. Thus, if we were late even for 1 min, we had to do squats 50 times.

In my case, it didn’t work. I hated it, but it was not easy to wake up early in the morning. (It was just an excuse). If I were already late, I didn’t bother to go in a hurry just because anyhow I was late and will surely get a punishment. I got used to doing squats. If I were late, I only did squats. That was all.

I think it can be same situation in class for young learners. Based on behavior theory, we can consider punishment to keep kids make promise, but we seriously need to think about how it is effective. Not just to avoid punishment, we need to make them feel happy when they come to class on time.

Research has found positive reinforcement is the most powerful. Punishment, when applied immediately following the negative behavior can be effective, but results in extinction when it is not applied consistently. Punishment can also invoke other negative responses such as anger and resentment.

Then, how can we make positive reinforcements for young kids?

Not just to avoid punishment, we need to make them to feel happy when they come to class on time.

Children usually love collecting stuffs in which they interested in.

Sometimes they make parents too hard as asking new toys or something that they want to have. I think we can use this character of child and adjust it for our attendance rules.

So below is my suggestion.

* First, it is to make attendance rule for children. And let them know how it’s important and why we need to keep them.
* Second, whenever they come to class on time, give them a sticker. (we also can consider another stuff as small blocks, stamps, fake coins).
* Third, make a small book to collect stickers. (We can use coin banks or small box or wall paper as substitute).
* Fourth, let children collect theses stickers.
* Fifth, open the flea market once a month. (We can settle the date together with children.)

And let children sell or buy stuffs with their collecting stickers.

Stickers serve as both reinforcement and punishment. If children have a lot of stickers, they can buy many items that they want. If children have few stickers, they can’t buy what they want. So, in this way, children can try to avoid tardiness in class.

These strategies can be used when studying English. It makes them motivated, so they will find studying interesting. Motivation is a good way to learn English.

Furthermore, we can consider giving a chance to children who didn’t get many stickers.

For example, we can give them stickers through challenging homework or activities.

If they did those well, they can be rewarded with stickers.

The reason we made attendance rules is to help children after all.

The final goal is learning English in a good environment, not just giving them punishment.

If we know what they really want and how they have fun by putting ourselves in their shoes, I think we can persuade them to be on time in our class.