

THE **ABCs** FOR FIRST YEAR TEACHERS

- Admit your mistakes and learn from them.
- Be firm but flexible.
- Communicate with parents.
- Develop a homework policy and stick to it.
- Empower your students; don't just lecture to them.
- Find time to attend afterschool events.
- Get to know all the teachers in your school and make friends with the cooks, custodians, aides, and secretaries.
- Have the courage to try something else if what you're doing isn't working.
- Institute a clear discipline policy and enforce it consistently.
- Just *listen* -- both to what the kids are saying and to what they're not saying.
- Keep a journal.
- Learn your school's policies and procedures.
- **Model** desired attitudes and behavior.
- Non carborundum ignorami. (Don't let the imbeciles wear you down.)
- **Over plan.**
- Prepare interesting lessons.
- Quit worrying and just do your best.
- Remember that you teach students first, *then* you teach whatever academic discipline you learned.
- Stay alert.
- Take pictures.
- Understand that the learning process involves everyone -- teachers, students, colleagues, and parents-- and get everyone involved.
- Volunteer to share projects and ideas, and don't be afraid to ask others to share their ideas with you.
- Work within your limits.
- “*Xpect*” the unexpected-- and plan for it!
- Yell if you need support.
- Zero in on your strengths, not your weaknesses. (Remember-- nobody's perfect!)

Starr, Linda. "Advice for First-Year Teachers -- from the 'Sophomores' Who Survived Last Year!" Education World 2002. 15 Aug. 2008 <http://www.education-world.com/a_curr/curr152.shtml>.