

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT: CLOTHES PIN BUCKET APPROACH

WAYS TO USE THE CLOTHES PIN BUCKET

- Write students' names on clothes pins (can use 2 colors of pins for boys/girls or 2 different colored markers).
- Introduce the bucket to students at the beginning of year and explain what you want them to know about it.
- If departmentalized, you can use 1 bucket and Ziploc bags – let helper change out bucket OR different bucket for each class.
- USE IT 100% OF THE TIME when calling on students.
- Use it for *most* EVERYTHING (very few exceptions).
- Carry it with you where you go – playground, cafeteria, etc.
- Begin pulling pins at beginning of class; clip RANDOMLY to outsides of bucket. Do not begin a pattern of placing them side by side in a row on one side. Return all pins when you've pulled them all OR if a new class/subject begins.

HELPS WITH ORGANIZATION

- class helpers
- calling on students during class
 - It's "random" – you will eventually get everyone (high/low, boy/girl, etc.).

HELPS WITH RECORD KEEPING

- Helps with documentation of student performance (colored message on inside rim of bucket).
 - red – missed question/problem
 - green – answered question/problem correctly
 - blue – needed help; struggled some; did not work independently

ELIMATES NEGATIVE FEELINGS/ATTITUDES

- It's no longer a judgment call by teacher. You will NOT hear, "My hand was up first!" or "You didn't call on me!"
- It is perceived by students as fair, which is extremely important.

PROMOTES POSITIVE ATTITUDES

- Students are waiting for their pin to be pulled – patiently and quietly.
- Adds a little humor and a little suspense.

EASY FOR TEACHER TO MANIPULATE – OR PLAN – SPECIFIC QUESTIONS/ PROBLEMS FOR SPECIFIC STUDENTS (DIFFERENTIATION)

- It's all about using a little psychology and a little secret manipulation.
- You have total control over how it's used in your classroom.