

One way to create a harmonious, less stressful, environment for learning is to work on the way everyone is speaking to each other within the learning environment. Make a concentrated effort to speak with respect to your students and in return, they are expected to speak with respect to you.

### 5 Tips for Effective Communication:

1. Use brief, specific language so that students clearly understand the request.
2. Avoid an authoritative, "Do it my way or else..." tone of voice. Instead, use a firm but respectful tone.
3. Avoid strong negative emotion or sarcasm when communicating.
4. Avoid long explanations or justifications (and present any explanation before the command rather than after it).
5. Allow students a short but reasonable amount of time to comply without additional teacher comments or directive.

Education Resource Group specializes in classroom coaching for building teacher effectiveness and raising student achievement. View the ERG website at [www.myedresource.com](http://www.myedresource.com).