

■ Preface

Dear Teacher,

Welcome to the second edition of *Common-Sense Classroom Management for the Elementary School Teacher*. Since the book was first published in 2002, a number of new and important issues have come to the forefront in education—standardized testing and use of computers, cell phones, and email to name just a few. It seems as though there is always something being added to the multitude of tasks and responsibilities facing teachers. Since the aim of our book is to help educators create a successful learning environment, we would surely be remiss if we didn't address these timely concerns in a new edition. So you'll find useful and practical ideas to address the aforementioned topics as well as others of interest and importance.

If you're unfamiliar with the format of our book, here's what we're about. We provide a proactive, common-sense approach to help you create a classroom where all students can learn. The strategies you'll find here can be implemented without extensive interpretation or planning, creation of materials, or permission from your administrator. We've taken care to make this book very user-friendly. Each strategy is limited to five points or fewer, and April Swick's drawings illustrate some of the ideas. A *lightbulb icon* appears wherever the strategy has been adapted for younger students, and an *IDEA icon* indicates a strategy that can be adapted for students with special education needs. IDEA is an acronym for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1977. (This legislation was reauthorized in 2004 and is now cited as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act.)

Keep in mind that these ideas can and should be changed or modified to fit your particular classroom situation. They are not written in stone and should be seen only as a means to an end in assisting you to create a classroom atmosphere that will serve you and your students best. We hope the addition of new chapters and strategies that address issues of current concern will make the second edition of our book a valuable resource—whether you are a new teacher or someone who works with new teachers.

Good luck—and have a great school year!

Sincerely,
Jill Lindberg
April Swick