



Pick Your Battles – Summary

In this segment you learned that managing behavior isn't about winning battles with kids; it's about avoiding battles and working with students, not against them, to change behavior. You also learned that educators can create a lot of problems by choosing to fight the wrong battles, at the wrong times, for the wrong reasons and in the wrong ways.

Selective Ignoring

- Selective ignoring means you are purposefully choosing to ignore a behavior. It doesn't mean you won't address it later but you may decide now is not the appropriate time or place.
- Use selective ignoring when –
 - The behavior is over; the student is likely to move on from their initial challenging behavior.
 - Time is on your side; you can wait the student out.
 - The student is agitated, angry or frustrated and addressing her negative emotions may escalate things.
 - You believe the student is doing something to get a specific response from you (such as starting an argument).
- Don't use selective ignoring when –
 - The behavior is unsafe.
 - The behavior is likely to escalate.
 - The behavior is contagious; other students will likely join in the behavior.
 - The behavior is causing a major or prolonged disruption.

Not Taking The Bait

- Sometimes students say and do things that tempt us to get into a conflict.
- The most important thing you can do to avoid unnecessary battles is to recognize when you are getting angry or frustrated and stop yourself from reacting to a student's behavior.

Staying on the Side of the Student

- Avoid battles by staying on the side of the student. That means working with her to solve the issue, rather than against her.
- Respond to students by showing you are –
 - Listening.
 - Interested.
 - Want to help.
- Don't respond by arguing or trying to force your perspective on the student.

PARASHARP™

Mythbuster

MYTH: Its important not to let students get away with behaviors. Every behavior should be addressed.

TRUTH: If you address every behavior reactively, rather than purposefully, you will waste a lot of time.

Go Do It !

Can you think of a battle you don't want to fight anymore? Identify something that you don't think is worth battling over and this week use selective ignoring in order to keep yourself out of battles you don't want to be in. Start with something that's easy to ignore.