

7 Skills You Need

*To Become a
Master Teacher*



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Get the Respect You Deserve

Once upon a time, teachers were universally respected for their knowledge and their ability to impart that knowledge to students. They were the masters of their craft, respected for their position in society. But those days are long gone. Nowadays, teachers are looked down upon in many circles as underpaid, overworked babysitters who are only good for giving out detention slips and collecting homework assignments. But there's no reason why you can't reclaim your reputation. If you're willing to develop the seven skills outlined below, you can become a master teacher who is well-respected by students, parents, administrators... and even more importantly, yourself!



Skill 1

Communicating Your Knowledge and Passion for Your Subject Effectively

All great teachers have had one thing in common—an ability to communicate their knowledge and passion for their subject. Whether it's history, math, science, or art, every great teacher communicates complex information in a way that allows their students to understand it easily.

The best way to do that...

1. Tell a good story
2. Use your body to emphasize key points
3. Allow for discussions, questions, and answers





Skill 2

Directing and Inspiring Others To Follow Your Lead

Be genuine. Be present. Be real. Whether you are teaching a classroom full of young students, leading a training session for your PLC, or giving a team presentation to parents, being able to engage your audience effectively can make all the difference in the world (no pressure!).

You are in charge, so lead well...

1. Be a good example
2. Promote group success
3. Handle criticism well



□ Skill 3

Working with and Encouraging People Who Think Differently To Do Their Best Work

Appreciation for the vast diversity of people should be a top priority in your classes. Ensure that students have the tools they need to work successfully with a variety of personalities and backgrounds.

Thoughtful Reflection on Diverse Perspectives Is Central to Good Teaching Practice

It can be difficult working with people who see things differently than you. Your challenge is to help them do their best work. If you can do that consistently, this will be a most rewarding skill.





Skill 4

Challenging Students To Meet the Demands of an Ever-Changing World

As your knowledge of psychology and pedagogy expands, you will become more adept at providing meaning and relevance to the classroom experience by identifying the right content for each specific situation.

Provide students with the skills they need most, at the right time, for the purposes that are most meaningful to them...

1. Begin with the right content
2. Put the right content in the right sequence
3. Put students in situations where they can learn and apply



□ Skill 5

Creating a Safe Environment Where Students Learn from Their Mistakes

Teaching is about much more than content knowledge and subject matter expertise. It's about creating a safe learning environment, too, where students explore, take risks, and make mistakes without fear of ridicule. Master teachers create classrooms where students feel comfortable trying new things—even if they fail along the way.

Build trust. Unleash learners...

1. The first step is to develop student trust and rapport
2. Model curiosity, not superiority
3. Encourage reflection and self-examination
4. Break down barriers, but only when they're safe to do so





Skill 6

Networking with Other Teachers for the Benefit of Your Students, as Well as Yourself

A critical ingredient to becoming a master teacher is the willingness and ability to reach out beyond your own classroom to seek the advice, training, and mentoring that can bring you up to speed on new techniques, technology, best teaching practices, common challenges, classroom management methods, and more.

A good teacher is always trying to learn and improve their craft. But what is the best way to do this?

1. Find teachers who have already done what you want to achieve
2. In the meantime, read everything you can get your hands on
3. Be relentless in your learning efforts



Skill 7

Recognizing When It Is Time for You To Move on or Refocus on a New Endeavor

Teaching can be a stressful endeavor, especially if it is your only source of income. However, no amount of stress should prevent you or anyone else from growing and developing personally or professionally.

There are times in your life when you need to find something different and new. This can be quite painful, but it is a necessary part of life that we must all go through.





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