



CLASSROOM SIMULATION

This is a short role playing activity in which school-age children will familiarize themselves with standard U.S. academic practices, particularly those in the classroom.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- Sample scholastic materials, i.e. textbooks, stationery, chalk, etc.
- Chairs arranged in typical classroom formation

HOW TO DO IT

Explain to the adults that the simulation is mainly for the children's benefit, but they might also want to know how their children will be taught. They should stand aside and allow the children to take the floor.

Ring a bell or make a similar noise, explaining to the children that this generally is a sign that class is beginning. As they take their seat, assume a non-authoritarian, non-intimidating tone and posture. Begin by saying hello and welcoming them. Then you can improvise learning material either from the textbooks or from your own memory. As you begin the lesson, you might choose to do the simulation in English to give the students a feel for what it is like to be in a foreign language classroom setting; it is up to you. Make sure to ask questions here and there, and call on students only if they raise their hand. Write something on the board and allow the children to copy it, explaining that note-taking is a common practice in the classroom and that it is acceptable not to look at the teacher while they are talking. It is also acceptable to excuse oneself to go to the bathroom, but one should raise one's hand to ask for permission. Often, students will need a hall pass to walk the halls during class, so write one out and give it to a volunteer. Other points to mention is that the teacher is usually called Mr. or Mrs. X, and that it is not necessary to stand while talking, but it is important to remain quiet while the teacher is talking and participate when a question is asked. Teachers cannot use corporal punishment but can revoke privileges and can send misbehaving students to detention or to the office. Ask if anyone has further questions, assign some pseudo-homework, and then ring the bell again for class to be dismissed.