Better Teaching®

Tips for Teachers Calendar

Elementary Edition

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 2008		**1** Reinforce the behavior you want. Give praise early and often—every day.	**2** Graph paper can help students set up their math problems correctly.	**3** Have students choose a favorite story and give it a new ending.	**4** Ask students to tell you what they have learned this week.	**5** Go to the library. Check out one of the old classics you've been wanting to read.
6 Take a walk in the rain. Sing if you feel inspired.	**7** Plan now for Earth Day (April 22nd).	**8** Avoid last-minute instructions. Warn students ahead of time.	**9** To teach the concept of scale, have students make a map of your classroom or playground.	**10** Promote critical thinking. Ask students to summarize what others have said.	**11** Teach a lesson using your students as characters.	**12** "If you would thoroughly know anything, teach it to others." —*Tryon Edwards*
13 Go to bed an hour earlier tonight. Your week will be off to a better start.	**14** Thank your volunteers for "helping us grow" with a packet of vegetable or flower seeds.	**15** Challenge your students to find a connection between today's lesson and something in their own lives.	**16** Drop your "nagging voice." Make requests matter-of-fact and businesslike.	**17** Manipulatives help students practice familiar skills and also learn new operations.	**18** Make a rule that students can't touch the computer that another student is using.	**19** Keep things in balance. Too much of anything—including work—can be bad.
20 "If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else." —*Booker T. Washington*	**21** Add a few props and costumes to liven up your read-aloud times.	**22** Today is Earth Day. Ask your students how they care for our planet.	**23** Never hang up on a parent—even if you are angry.	**24** Prepare students for high-stakes tests by asking questions that use charts or graphs.	**25** Stop by a public library or bookstore on your way home—just to browse.	**26** Watch a movie and enjoy a big box of popcorn.
27 Keep in touch. Write or call a friend today.	**28** State requests as statements, not questions. "Finish your work by lunchtime."	**29** Help students with high-stakes tests. Teach them how to budget their time.	**30** Look for ways to lighten your load—and for people who can help you.			

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