Classroom Management Article Review Assignment – Article 1

*Consequence Maps – A Novel Behavior Management Tool for Educators*

Catherine E. Tobins and Richard Simpson

Consequence Maps are “graphic representations of behaviors and their consequences”. (Tobins and Simpson, pg. 70) The map generally portrays not only the present inappropriate behavioral approach and its consequences but a future more appropriate approach with its positive consequences. This concept relies on three different components to make it successful: visual elements that illustrate the situation and possible outcomes; student involvement in the discussion of behaviors and outcomes; and adult-student problem solving in a collaborative manner.

I really like this idea and can see how it would work well with those students how have emotional and behavioral disorders as well as other special needs. As someone who will most likely continue to teach students with autism, this may become a valuable tool. Students with autism often need to have visual supports to manage their day and this is another tool in their arsenal. In many respects this can be used much like Carol Gray’s Social Stories. I like this approach better because it actively involves the students in the process where the social stories tend to be teacher generated.

This approach meshes well with my management philosophy. While there are almost always natural consequences, I think that it is important to have student input on both positive and negative consequences that are more arbitrarily instituted in a classroom. There needs to be buy in on both sides if the consequences are going to be effective in helping change a behavior.

Bibliography

Tobin, C. E., & Simpson, R. (2012). Consequence maps: A novel behavioral management tool for educators. *TEACHING Exceptional Children*, *44*(5), 68-75. Retrieved May 24, 2013.