

Here's an adapted classroom management plan for chess classes, incorporating Thom Gibson's video tips alongside the Chess Wizards resources:

1. Seating Chart

- **Initial and Adaptive Seating:** Arrange a seating chart on day one to minimize potential distractions. While Chess Wizards materials don't mention seating directly, ensuring optimal seating arrangements helps manage behavior and maintain focus. If students struggle with their seats, acknowledge their concerns privately, maintaining authority and discretion.

2. Brain Breaks

- **Structured Breaks in Longer Sessions:** For chess classes exceeding 45 minutes, include 3-5 minute "brain breaks" using a timer. Activities like stretching or quick chess puzzles can re-energize students, as advised by both Gibson's tips and the Chess Wizards Pre-K Guide. Emphasize timeliness, where students lose break privileges if they are late returning(PreK Book Draft 1).

3. Greet Students

- **Welcoming Environment:** Start each session by greeting students with a handshake, high-five, or encouraging words. The Chess Wizards Pre-K Guide emphasizes rapport-building, which a warm greeting supports, setting a positive tone for learning(PreK Book Draft 1).

4. Gaining Attention

- **Start with Silence:** Wait until students are completely silent before giving instructions. As Chess Wizards stresses consistency in rules, this method reinforces attentiveness and respect, ensuring instructions aren't missed and reducing the need for repeated directions(Chess Wizards Travel Po...).

5. Managing Noise Levels

- **Visual Noise Control:** During group activities, use a system like spelling "NOISE" on the board and erasing letters as the volume rises. If it reaches "NO," the class shifts to silent work, which aligns with Chess Wizards' focus on maintaining an engaging yet controlled environment, as seen in their guidance on managing transitions and group activities(CW Summer Camp Guide 20...).

6. Avoiding Public Redirection

- **Discrete Management:** Avoid calling out students publicly; instead, use indirect prompts like “I’m waiting for a few students to get ready.” This aligns with Chess Wizards’ approach to managing behavior discreetly to avoid creating power dynamics that could disrupt the classroom flow(Instructor Evaluation S...).

7. Student Autonomy (Starbucks Mode)

- **Flexible Seating and Work Choices:** Allow students to choose seating or tasks for independent practice sessions, but set clear guidelines for behavior. This approach, similar to Chess Wizards’ Pre-K suggestions, can enhance motivation and ownership, provided students remain focused and productive(PreK Book New Cover).

8. Think-Pair-Share

- **Promoting Discussion:** Incorporate think-pair-share regularly to let students discuss chess strategies or moves. This encourages active engagement and allows students to verbalize their thinking, reinforcing Chess Wizards’ emphasis on collaborative learning(CW Summer Camp Guide 20...)(PreK Book Draft 1).

9. Addressing Disrespect Privately

- **Respectful Intervention:** Handle any disrespect or conflicts by asking students to step into the hall or a quiet corner for a private conversation. The Chess Wizards guidelines on maintaining a positive and professional environment mirror this strategy, as it prevents escalation and keeps the focus on learning(Chess Wizards Travel Po...)(Ms. Cup of Culture).

10. Reflection and Documentation

- **Reflective Journaling:** For repeated behavior issues, have students fill out a reflection form to process their actions. Chess Wizards’ Student Scorecard could also be adapted to track behavioral progress alongside chess skills, allowing for constructive discussions with students and parents on improvements over time(Student Scorecard 5Vers...).