



By Chris Drew, PhD / June 25, 2019

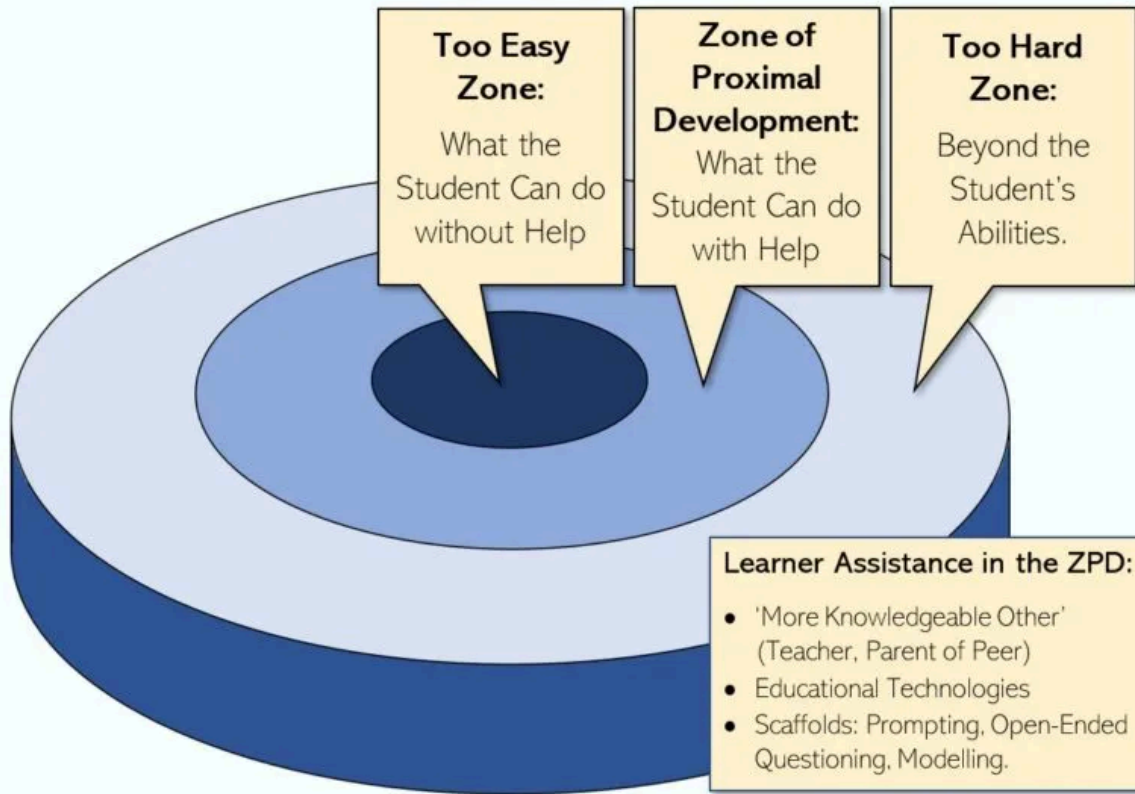
High expectations is the attitude that you expect the best out of students at all times. Here are 13 ways to achieve this in the classroom:

1. Teach about growth mindsets.
2. Focus on best efforts.
3. Ask students to try again.
4. Express unconditional positive regard.
5. Set achievable but challenging tasks.
6. Identify causes when work is not up to quality expectations.
7. Be a role model.
8. Praise behaviors that are praise-worthy.
9. Focus on using intrinsic incentives rather than extrinsic motivators.
10. Show your expectations by providing exemplars.
11. Ask open-ended questions.
12. Give detailed feedback.
13. Be consistent.

Definition Of High Expectations

Having high expectations means believing students should always strive to achieve their best. Raising expectations is not about being strict or a micro-manager. It's quite the opposite. By raising your expectations, students will work hard whether you're watching them or not. The goal is to create a classroom culture of hard work and self-belief.

Vygotsky's Zone of Proximal Development



SETTING HIGH ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

<https://teachlikeachampion.com/wp-content/uploads/Lemov-Chapter-1.pdf>

Technique	Key Idea
NO OPT OUT	A sequence that begins with a student unable to answer a question should end with the student answering that question as often as possible.
RIGHT IS RIGHT	Set and defend a high standard of correctness in your classroom.
STRETCH IT	The sequence of learning does not end with a right answer; reward right answers with follow-up questions that extend knowledge and test for reliability. This technique is especially important for differentiating instruction.
FORMAT MATTERS	It's not just what students say that matters but how they communicate it. To succeed, students must take their knowledge and express it in the language of opportunity.
WITHOUT APOLOGY	Sometimes the way we talk about expectations inadvertently lowers them. If we're not on guard, we can unwittingly apologize for teaching worthy content and even for the students themselves.

High expectations teachers



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Students whose teachers have high expectations and believe they can succeed perform better than students whose teachers have low expectations of them.

2

Clearly communicate learning goals



Get students to set their own goals, with your help



Use SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, results-oriented and time-bound) goals



Break larger goals into specific steps



Focus on mastery goals

1

Create a warm & supportive classroom



Manage behaviour positively and proactively



Take time to enjoy and get to know your students



Include student interests in learning activities



Show trust by giving students responsibility for their learning



Show interest in students' achievements

3

Use mixed-ability groupings



Change the groupings at least once a month



Allow students to choose their own activities from a range of options



Minimise differentiation between high-achievers and low-achievers



Provide a variety of attainment levels in each activity

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