

Foreword

Make no mistake about it ... CHILDREN WATCH OUR EVERY MOVE! They are masters at exploiting our weaknesses. They know precisely when and how to “push our buttons.” They are at times the screwdrivers. We, at times, are the screws.

This may sound harsh, but reality usually is. And unfortunately, this is the reality in many of our classrooms. Too often, students are the ones in control. After 24 years of dealing with some of the toughest challenges and classroom situations, I have come to the conclusion that most breakdowns in the classroom can be traced to one or more of what I refer to as the common teaching mistakes that we have all made—mistakes that could have been rectified or completely avoided.

After reading this book, you will feel more in control of your own classroom. You will feel a new sense of empowerment. With your newfound empowerment, you will become a more highly respected and effective teacher. Remember that you chose this profession because you love children above all. You continue to choose the profession every day as you make life-changing decisions. This book will give you the tools to make the decisions that will positively impact the lives of every student you teach. Your influence is lasting. Make sure it's a positive one.