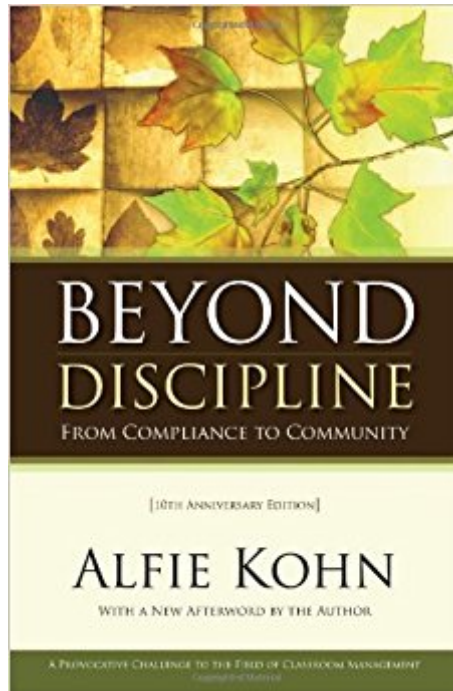


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# Beyond Discipline: From Compliance To Community



## Synopsis

In this 10th anniversary edition of an ASCD best seller, author Alfie Kohn reflects on his revolutionary ideas in the context of today's emphasis on school accountability and high-stakes testing. Find out how his innovative approach- where teachers learn to work with students, rather than do things to them-has withstood the test of time and helped educators create positive learning environments that prevent discipline problems from occurring. Using examples of real teachers dealing with common behavior problems, Kohn explains Why classroom management approaches that rely on rewards and punishments actually prolong behavior problems. How to turn misbehavior into teaching opportunities. Why changing your curriculum can solve discipline problems.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Alfie Kohn is the author of many other books about education and human behavior, including *Punished by Rewards*, *The Schools Our Children Deserve*, and *Unconditional Parenting*.

I read this book while researching my topic for my MA thesis in elementary education. This book blew me away. It's provocative, it's funny and it challenges so many of the unnecessarily cruel and transparently manipulative behaviors we use as teachers on a daily basis. While I agree that the book doesn't offer a paint by the numbers how to guide for implementing a more democratic and community based classroom, the intelligent reader can understand what needs to be done or at least look elsewhere for answers. This book inspired me allow me third grade students to throw out

some of the old classroom rules and create new guidelines that they brainstormed, justified and ultimately settled on with me only acting as facilitator. It worked amazingly well and they really came up with some responsible guidelines for class behavior (although I gotta admit I was really holding my breath that they'd try to create some crazy stuff). At first I needed to remind them of these policies THEY CREATED but gradually they began to remind one another and there's been noticeable improvement. They own these new policies and have shown they can think critically and take charge. Best book I've ever read in education, hands down.

This was the kind of book that kept me up at night because I was thinking about Kohn's ideas. This was my first reading of Kohn. I became caught up in my memories of my own education in comparison to what I see in public schools today. It is for the best that some of these ideas be discussed and used in a modern classroom. I have seen some of the old disciplinary techniques bear their heads into classrooms and effect children in a very disturbing way only to cause trauma and humiliation. I know it is easy to assume a quiet class is a well managed class but I think some teachers may not want to admit that fear based discipline leads to an inner violence. We just don't live in those times anymore and cannot hide behind an archaic domineering manner of teaching.

The first 2/3 of this book is a long rant about everything that is wrong in standard discipline methodologies. The last 1/3 are descriptions of how it could be done better, yet with no specific guidelines. The best part about this book was that it pissed me off and got me to thinking. The worst part is that it had very little in the way of practical advice on what you could do differently.

Great buy!! Thanks!!

This is an OUTSTANDING reconsideration of time-honored but rarely examined educational/managerial practices. Kohn provides well-processed perspectives that any educator needs to consider for the sake of their students and themselves. A must-read for anyone in leadership of any type!

Casts a light into the underlying assumptions of the plethora classroom management programs being marketed to schools and parents. If, as an educator, your aspirations exceed compliance this is an ideal book to stimulate reflection on how your assumptions impact on the classroom environment.

First, Alfie Kohn is a former teacher, to answer a previous reviewer who said he wasn't. As I begin my fourth year of teaching, I have tried so many of the behavior-management methods. And as I look back on my teaching, I had the least behavior problems when my class was having fun and I was tailoring lessons to meet their interest. Whenever I decided to take a more traditional, back-to-basics approach, I found the class to be visibly more miserable with an increase in behavior problems. Alfie Kohn's book makes us take a reflective look at our teaching rather than blaming everything on the children. It challenges us to use the children as co-problem solvers and relinquish some control in the classroom. After a difficult past year, I realized that marble jars, funny money, class stores, tickets, and even behavior awards were simply bribing children, pitting them against each other, and creating a "What am I going to get for this?" mentality. I told myself that I wouldn't do it again this year. I feel so fortunate to have read this book before the beginning of school. This book reminds me why I wanted to become a teacher.

I am so glad that the author was brave enough to stand up to the dogma that Lee and Marlene Canter were professing back in the 1970's and early 80's. What is so sad is that there are plenty of really bad teachers out there that still use Lee and Marlene Canter's Power-Assertive Discipline methods. The Canter methods are completely inappropriate for use in daycare, preschool, and the primary grades. There are disciples of Lee and Marlene Canter still out there working as educators who are really awful teachers. These are the ones who truly believe that it's for the best to tell students how to behave and what to think instead of teaching them how to make their own decisions. I'm so glad that the author wrote this book. He discusses the concepts of the "child-directed classroom" and giving students legitimate choices. He talks about how students learn how to develop "self-regulation skills" (self-discipline). It's absolutely relevant for anyone who wants their students to learn how to think and make decisions on their own. A classic and important read for anyone who wants to teach as a profession. I am so glad the author was brave enough years ago to write this book and to discredit so many of the inappropriate methods Lee and Marlene Canter have been selling.

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