

First Draft

Gerry Byrnes
 the primary school
 Toowoomba Qld 4350

26 June 2008

Dear Mrs REDAC,

I am writing to you in reply to the letter you sent to Mr Terry Hayes, Principal of the primary school REDAC. Mr Hayes has also spoken to me concerning this letter.

I will try to address the various issues raised in this letter. Firstly, I spoke to REDAC briefly about the letter (dated 5 June) you sent Terry and me regarding the term 2 project. However, I did this in a one-to-one situation at my desk. I did this in a manner that I thought no one else could hear. I realize now in hindsight that I should not have discussed the contents of the letter with REDAC but I did mistakenly think that she was aware of it. My intention was to get REDAC to listen more carefully to directions generally. I certainly would not publicly berate REDAC in front of the class and I certainly would not target her in this fashion. Sometimes, a child's perception may be somewhat different from what actually happened. I am sorry if someone in the class overheard my conversation with REDAC. I did not intend for that to happen, nor was it my intention to embarrass her and it was not my intention to make her more anxious. REDAC is a quiet, pleasant girl who, although slow to perform writing tasks in class, does good produce good work quite often and gets praised for it, as does the rest of the rest of the class when warranted. The children in the class get competition points for their team/group when they produce good work. It is true that I sometimes get cranky, particularly when the pressure is on to get assessment and reporting done towards the end of term. Most teachers do. I do have a good relationship with the children in the class. A lot of the children, including REDAC, come to me at my desk between 8.30 and 8.40 before formal lessons start and talk to me and joke with me.

Secondly, I realized that you had a group of Year 2 children working with you when I addressed you about the letter (dated 5 June), but I thought you asked me to discuss this matter with you at that time. You also got the children to continue with their reading and concentrate on their reading while we discussed the matter. I also wanted to discuss the matter with you as early as possible so that we could both move forward. I'm sorry if I embarrassed you or made you feel uncomfortable in any way.

Finally, I am disappointed that you didn't come to me first to discuss your concerns in this matter but rather turned to 'car park gossip' with other parents and also to the Principal. We could have hopefully sorted out any problems that you had regarding your daughter. Your daughter's welfare is important to me also.

Hopefully, this matter can be resolved in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Gerry Byrnes
 (Year 4B class teacher)