

Book title: Getting the buggers to behave – Fifth Edition

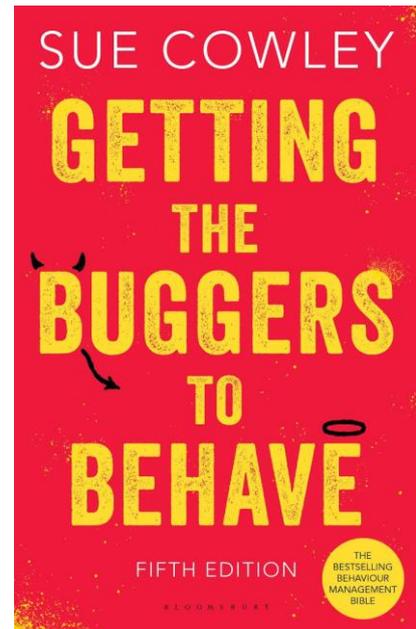
Author: Sue Cowley

Publication date: 2014

The review

1. What is your overall impression of the book?

I think this book is a delight to read. Sue uses her writing skills in a fun and entertaining manner to engage her readers. This book is a must-read for all teacher trainees from early-years to secondary! It is not a text book, but a book that relates to you and feels personal.



2. Who do you think would benefit most from reading the book? What will they learn?

I think this book would be beneficial for teacher trainees, newly qualified teachers and even experienced teachers. It is a great book to help you captivate, seize control and getting those buggers to behave!

3. What did you think about the quality of the writing? Please consider the tone, structure and ideas. Does it suit the audience?

The quality of writing in this book is rich and entertaining. The tone is more of a conversation with the writer; Sue Cowley. It may even feel like nagging at times. But it is wonderful. Feels like you are really there taking and getting 'tips' and advice. The structure and ideas are easy and simple to read. The book's advice ranges from the basics of behaviour management to 'how to deal with the class from hell' and is applicable whether you are working in the early years, primary, secondary or further education with level specific examples in every chapter. The book covers preparing for your first meeting with a new group of students, developing your individual teaching style, creating a positive learning environment and working in really challenging schools. The practical, honest and realistic nature of her advice, and all her ideas include case studies and anecdotes based on her years of experience working as a teacher and the stories and problems she has advised on 'agony aunt' style, for teachers of all levels.

4. Please discuss the research used to underpin the ideas. What evidence does the author use? Is it robust and up-to-date?

This is a revised book of many other editions by Sue Cowley. Sue is the best-selling author of more than twenty five books for teachers and parents, including *Getting the Buggers to Behave*, *Teaching Skills for Dummies* and *How to Survive your First Year in Teaching*. The research used in this book

comes from all hands-on experience from her own experiences as a teacher and a parent. Therefore the ideas underpinned in this book are robust and up-to-date.

Sue Cowley is an experienced teacher, writer and presenter, whose specialisms are in the areas of behaviour management and creative teaching and learning. After qualifying as a primary school teacher, Sue taught in a number of different secondary schools in London and Bristol. She has also worked as a supply teacher and taught overseas, at an international school in Portugal. She still works on a voluntary basis with children in schools, to ensure that she keeps up to date with life 'at the chalkface'. She has helped to run her local preschool for the past eight years, as chair of the management committee. Sue was called as an Expert Witness on behaviour, to appear in front of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Education.

She is a contributor to the TES and has been a judge for the early years section of the annual TES Awards for the past three years. She is a columnist for Teach Early Years and Teach Primary magazines and has written for Nursery World and Early Years Educator magazines. She has produced materials about behaviour management for the Open University / BBC. As well as being a regular presenter on Teachers TV, Sue has developed a series of Positive Behaviour Management DVDs.

5. What did you learn from reading the book? What ideas/approaches/practice will you change or adopt as a result of reading this book?

From this book, I learnt that there is actually isn't a magic wand when it comes to managing behaviour even though it may seem that way from observing other teachers. It takes time to build relationships and these relationships help you to understand and know your pupils. You don't always need to say anything, you can just "Use your 'deadly stare' to show that you've spotted problem behaviour without saying a word.". Most importantly no matter how bad I have felt a lesson has gone, I need to pick myself up again. As Sue has mentioned; "Even in your worst lesson, nobody died."

Appropriate behaviour is something that children need to learn, just like the curriculum. Therefore, I will be patient and build relationships with my pupils and get to really know them, what rewards work best for each of them, as each child has their own preference; Dojos, stickers, VIP of the day etc.

6. Could you share a quote from the book that particularly resonated with you?

"It is a war out there, and we need to use every single weapon we have at our disposal."