

Alfie Kohn

Alfie Kohn has written eleven books including The Homework Myth (2006) and Beyond Discipline: From Compliance to Community (1996), which he describes as “a modest attempt to overthrow the entire field of classroom management.” Alfie Kohn is described by the *Times* magazine as “perhaps the country’s most outspoken critic of education’s fixation on grades [and] test scores.”

Alfie currently lives in Boston with his wife and their two children.



Alfie Kohn's Books

- The Homework Myth
- Unconditional Parenting
- The Schools Our Children Deserve
- What to Look for in a Classroom
- Beyond Discipline
- Punished by Rewards
- and more



Alfie Kohn's View on Classroom Management

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Punishments and Rewards

Alfie Kohn believes that:

- Extrinsic motivation decreases students innate motivation
- Teachers should switch to portfolio systems or self-assessments by students to decrease motivation for grades and pressure
- Avoid phrases such as, “Good Job,” instead ask students to self-reflect by saying, “In what ways have you improved”
- Competition provides extrinsic motivation and could cause students to lie and create hostility between students

Alfie Kohn believes that:

Discipline

- Every student needs to feel comfortable in their classroom
- In order for students to feel successful, they need to be able to make choices with what they do
- Students should not be punished for talking, its what they will always do and it helps foster community and social interaction
- Using discipline such as the card system and taking away recesses do not work
- Discipline should not be the focus of the classroom; rather focus on creating a caring and comfortable environment for the students

Alfie Kohn believes that:

Active Learning

- Students learn by constructing knowledge, not by passively absorbing information or practicing skills
- Students learn best when information is meaningful and serves a purpose
- Students also learn best when investigating or discussing their own questions
- The goal of teachers should be to foster deep understanding and higher order thinking with all students

Our group opinion on Alfie's views on education is that his ideas are a little extreme however they are something to work towards. His views really question the current educational system.