"I'm bored."

Perhaps you've heard this complaint before. Chances are, if you work with City Kids, you haven't heard it. City Kids don't tell -- they show.

Like the Good News Club® we held recently at a nearby public school. Everything was going well. The kids ate their snacks, seated themselves in their chairs, and readied themselves to participate --- until they fell asleep.

Well -- some of them fell asleep. Others talked. Still others picked fights with kids across the room. The situation was completely out of control in a matter of seconds.

Thankfully, a fresh, smart, trained CEF worker stepped in. "Who knows the 4 most famous rules of Good News Club?" she asked. It wasn't long before the kids were happily chanting them with her:

GOOD NEWS CLUB RULES
1. Stay in your place (seat)
2. The whistle means quiet
3. Follow directions
4. Have fun and praise the Lord

At Good News Club, we don't just want the kids to know the rules -- we want them to follow the rules. Why? Because without rules there's no structure -- and without structure there's no fun -- and without fun there's no learning.

But how can we get City Kids to pay attention to Good News Club rules? The answer is easy: the reward system.

There are 3 simple steps to this system:

- Instantly reward students, individually, who immediately observe the rules by giving them a small prize.
- At the end of club, give a special award to students who showed exceptional effort to pay attention.
- Let the kids know you're serious -- if they don't follow ALL of the rules ALL of the time, they won't receive a reward.
- Reward with prizes very sparingly. Never give if there is not complete obedience.

Using these steps at our Good News Club helped our City Kids and our teachers have more fun. The system worked -- it always works. We've been following these steps for years, and City Kids are responding.

They're not telling us -- they're showing us. By the excited looks on their faces, we know that they're following the rules, having fun, and learning. That is, after all, what we want them to do.