

The Green Zone

Parent Information for Understanding the Daily Green Zone Ratings

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Color	
Green	<p style="text-align: center;">“Excellent!”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- All students begin their day in the middle of the green-Students are moved up to recognize their good effort and performance-Students are moved up when teachers are impressed with a single behavior (e.g., working hard as others nearby are fooling around), when they overcome an obstacle or do something difficult, or when they sustain an effort over a long period of time.
Yellow	<p style="text-align: center;">“Get back on track”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Need to try harder to follow the routines of the class- Need to try harder to complete work at a suitable pace or quality- Need to do more without so many reminders-Need to recover from causing a disruption-Students may continue to move down in the yellow for a more significant disruptive behavior or for an extended disruption.
Red	<p style="text-align: center;">- “Stop and Think”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- When a “think time” is required-Destruction of property- Demonstrating unsafe behaviors toward people or property- Threatening staff or students verbally or with gestures- When the safe room is required.

The Green Zone is a recognition program on a large magnetic board with three major color zones, Green, Yellow, and Red. Each student is represented on the board by a magnetic marker and the placement of this marker reflects feedback from the teacher about student performance. Students are recognized for their efforts when the staff move up their marker in the zone, and they are told to try harder by a moving their marker down. Students are always told what they need to do to make a move up, and movement on the board can happen any time. No one has to wait for recognition when they show a good effort. All students are expected to stay in the green zone, because: 1) the therapeutic program gives students all the support they need to make good choices, 2) students are given constructive options if they are struggling, and 3) they are provided with different ways to recover if they lose their stamina or their tolerance. Students who are doing well are able to stay in the green zone at least 85% of the day. The Green Zone is monitored closely and adjusted nearly continuously when students are working on improvement.

The Green Zone seems like a simple enough program for anyone to run, but that is deceptive. It requires specialized therapeutic training and advanced clinical expertise before it can be used as an effective intervention with a therapeutic population. Therefore, it is not available for home use. Professional practice regulations set forth by the American Psychological Association limit the availability of any such program to properly trained therapeutic teachers and clinical staff. Not only will Kevin Plummer, Ph.D. School Clinical & Consulting Services

the Green Zone be ineffective when used by people without the proper training; it is likely to create additional problems and/or worsen problems. Sometimes students want their parents to use a Green Zone at home. We tell those students that home and school are different places that have different expectations, different people in charge, and different ways of helping children, and one place doesn't try to be like the other place.