

Top Tips



- Practise what you preach - children learn their behaviour by copying people around them
- Be aware of your own body language as well as choice of words/ statements/ tone of voice



- Behaviour is governed by emotions - teaching children the language of feelings and helping them to recognise and express those feelings can have a positive impact on reducing some types of inappropriate behaviours
- Adults should analyse their own motives for reacting as they do and examine their preconceptions about what is, and what is not, acceptable behaviour
- Avoid conflict by purposefully engaging children and allow them to feel responsible and in control of what they want to do.
- Explain and model rules clearly
- Keep it brief - children have a short concentration span and a limited vocabulary
- Be consistent in your approach - different emotional responses to the same behaviour cause confusion for the child
- Words and actions of adults should match and everyone demonstrates the behaviour they want to see
- Reflect on what the child needs before putting other strategies into place
- Use the word 'stop' rather than 'no' - stop lends itself to explaining why the child should stop the behaviour
- Turn your negative comments into positive ones that tell the children what they should be doing, rather than what they shouldn't. eg. Instead of "don't run" say "walk please."
- Turn 'why' into 'what' - more useful to ask 'what happened here?' 'what do you think should happen now?'
- Give reminders before reprimands (children may be absorbed in what they are doing/easily distracted).
- Avoid conflict by checking the child understands or say something in a different way.



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