

Positive Guidance for Young Children: Be Consistent

Young children are learning to manage their behaviors and feelings. They may need many reminders of what appropriate behavior looks like. Clear directions from adults in a calm, firm tone of voice help children know what to do.

Teach expectations

Talk about how you expect children to act in a group, at meal times, and during cleanup times. Show them what you mean by modeling the desired behaviors.

Respond consistently

When adults are consistent with consequences and responses, children will understand what has happened in the past and what they can expect in the future.



Keep a schedule

When children are tired, hungry, or thirsty, it is more difficult for them to engage in appropriate behavior. Keep a consistent schedule so children's physical needs are met.

Use natural consequences

Children learn through cause and effect. If your child spills crackers on the floor, have her help pick them up.

Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this tip sheet are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Illinois State Board of Education.



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