

GUIDANCE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

The following techniques are effective when working with young children. You may wish to use the transparency included in this lesson, or you may wish to make a bulletin board using this information. It would be effective to have students draw illustrations to represent each type of guidance.

1. **REDIRECTION:** Get him to focus on something else. For example, if he is angry at the blocks, lead him to a different area of the room and introduce a different activity.
2. **POSITIVE GUIDANCE STATEMENTS:** When guiding children, phrase all requests in a positive manner. For example, say, "Let's walk to the blocks," rather than "Don't run to the blocks."
3. **NATURAL AND LOGICAL CONSEQUENCES:** This means to make the punishment fit the crime. For example, if Sally spills the paint, she must clean up the mess that is made.
4. **LIMITED CHOICES:** Do not give him an unlimited choice unless he can really have what is chosen. For example, "Do you want water or juice for a drink?" rather than, "What would you like to drink?" Remember, only give choices if they are available.
5. **TIME OUT:** When a child has disobeyed a rule, she will be sent to a pre-determined place to distance herself from the problem and gain composure (last option, limited use).
6. **IGNORE THE NEGATIVE AND REINFORCE THE POSITIVE:** When a child's behavior is inappropriate, focus on a child who is displaying the appropriate behavior and make a positive comment. If the first child changes his behavior, he should be immediately reinforced with a positive statement.

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