Host: Sometimes a child needs to be reminded more directly about a classroom rule. Maybe redirection didn’t work or the inappropriate behavior is more serious like hitting another child. Your simple and positive reminders can be very effective.

Host: There are two steps to using simple and positive reminders. First, the teacher should clarify the rule that has been broken. So if one child takes another child’s possession, the teacher might say, “I can’t let you take Jacob’s backpack, remember that is one of our rules.” Next the teacher should talk with the child about why the rule is important. So the teacher might say, “Taking people’s things upsets them. See how Jacob is upset?” By using the two steps, the child learns what behavior was inappropriate and why it was inappropriate and what would be an appropriate behavior to use instead.

Host: Let’s visit a pre-school teacher to see how she uses a positive reminder to guide a child’s behavior.

Children in classroom: (jumbled up)
Teacher: Donald. You just threw my toys. How should we treat the toys in here?
Child 2: Look.
Teacher: I saw. Donald, you threw it behind your back. Yeah. How should we treat the toys in our classroom?
Child: Nice.
Teacher: Nice. Is throwing a good idea?
Child: No.
Teacher: No.
Child 2: Look at mine.
Teacher: Donald. I just heard Alyssa say we should not throw the toys.
Child: Yeah.
Teacher: How come we shouldn’t throw them?
Child 2: Because they’ll break.
Teacher: They’ll break.

Host: Now we’d like you to think about how you might have used simple, positive reminders to guide a child in your class who was demonstrating inappropriate behavior. What was the child doing? What could you have said to use both steps in the strategy?