



Guiding Young Children's Behavior

Segment 5: Responding to Behavior Problems and Resolving Conflicts

TRANSCRIPT for Objective 2

Simple, Positive Reminders

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

Kate: Donald. You just threw my toys. How should we treat the toys in here? Donald, you threw it behind your back. Yeah. How should we treat our toys in the classroom?

Donald: Nice.

Kate: Nice. Is throwing a good idea? Donald. I just heard Alyssa say we should not throw the toys. How come we shouldn't throw them?

Alyssa: Because they'll break.

Kate: 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?

Activity 5B: Simple, Positive Reminders

Voiceover: Think about a time when you might have used simple positive reminders to guide a child's behavior. What was the child doing? What could you have said to use both steps? Remember the steps for simple positive reminders are:

1. Clearly state what rule has been broken.
2. Discuss why the rule is important.

Did you consider ...?

Voiceover: Here are some examples of using simple positive reminders:

Example 1:

- “You can’t hit, that’s a rule in our classroom, remember?” (Step 1)
- “Hitting hurts people. Can you see how Jasmine is crying?” (Step 2)

Example 2:

- “You can’t throw the puzzle pieces, James. Remember we have a rule that we take care of our classroom materials” (Step 1)
- “If you throw the puzzle pieces they’ll all get lost and we can’t make the puzzle anymore.” (Step 2)