

# Kids' Discipline 101

## Tip Sheet



### Principles in Guiding Children's Behavior

- Establish boundaries.
- Maintain boundaries consistently.
- Use positive, clear suggestions.
- Give options.
- Respect the child as a person.
- Use praise wisely and sincerely.
- Plan and prepare with the children's interests in mind.
- Expect not the impossible.
- Listen to a child when he talks.
- Be a positive role model.
- Change the way you are progressing on your plans or shift to another activity if the group is restless.
- Deal with problems immediately.
- Plan for a variety of activities and projects.
- Identify the needs of children.

### Techniques in Correcting Unacceptable Behavior

- Get the child's attention.
- Reflect rather than deny the child's feelings.
- Offer options.
- Acknowledge your feelings:
  - State how the child's actions made you feel.
  - Remain silent for several seconds.
  - Let the child know that you are on his/her side, and that even though you disliked the child's actions, you still like him or her.
- When you finish the reprimand, it's over!

### Steps to Take in Correcting Unacceptable Behavior

- Make the child aware of his need to change in a positive manner.
- Remove the child from the group in the presence of the group.
- Remove the child from the group away from the presence of the group.
- As a next resort:
  - Seek the help of an authority figure.
  - When decided upon, schedule a parent conference.
- Consider the following guidelines:
  - Never talk in the doorway of the classroom about behavior problems.
  - In telephoning/talking with parents, take full responsibility.
  - A good way to state the challenge is, "I love Angela. I am so glad that she is in our class. I want to be a good teacher for her. BUT I am having trouble knowing what to do when Angela does 'such and such.' What do you do?"