



Helpful Tips:

For Providing Positive Directions

1. Tell a child what to do instead of what not to do.
2. Show the child by modeling or using a picture of the action.
3. Specifically and simply state what you expect the child to do.
4. Remember young children use inappropriate behavior because they might not understand social rules.
5. Talk to young children using language they understand. Be cautious when using contractions or other higher level vocabulary.
6. Encourage the child in a way that lets him/her know that he/she is exhibiting the desired behavior.
7. Be enthusiastic and generous with encouragement and specific feedback. Children can never get enough!

Examples		
Avoid	Say/Model	Remember
<i>Don't run!</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk • Use walking feet • Stay with me • Hold my hand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I see that you are using perfect walking feet. • Thanks for walking!
<i>Stop climbing!</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep your feet on the floor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wow! You have both feet on the floor!
<i>Don't touch!</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep your hands by your side • Look with your eyes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are really listening well • You are looking with hands by your side!
<i>No yelling!</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a calm voice • Use an inside voice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now I can listen, you are using a calm (inside) voice.
<i>Stop whining!</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a calm voice • Talk so that I can understand you • Talk like a big boy/girl 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now I can hear you; that is so much better. • Tell me with your words what's wrong.
<i>Don't stand on the chair!</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sit on the on the chair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you for sitting so nicely in your chair! • Wow, you're sitting up big and tall!
<i>Don't hit!</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hands down • Hands are for playing, eating, and hugging • Use your words • (Give child appropriate words to use to express emotion) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are using your words! • Thank you for using gentle hands and being nice to your friend!
<i>No coloring on the wall!</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Color on the paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at what you've colored! Pretty picture!
<i>Don't throw your toys!</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play with the toys on the floor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You're playing so nicely! • You are using all the toys in the right way!