

COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY

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. Clearly and simply state what you expect the child to do.
4. Remember young children use inappropriate behavior because they may not understand the social rules yet.
5. Talk to young children using language they understand. Young children may not understand words like "don't" because it is a short word for "do not" and he/she may not know what the "negation" of a word means.
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. Children can never get enough!

Examples:

Avoid	Say/Model	Remember
Don't run!	Walk; Use walking feet; Stay with me; Hold my hand	Way to go! I like how you're walking. Thanks for walking!
Stop climbing!	Keep your feet on the floor	Wow! You have both feet on the floor!
Don't touch!	Keep your hands down; Look with your eyes	You are such a good listener; you are looking with hands down!
No yelling!	Use a calm voice; Use an inside voice	[In a low voice] Now I can listen, you are using a calm (inside) voice.
Stop whining!	Use a calm voice; Talk so that I can understand you; Talk like a big boy/girl	Now I can hear you; that is so much better. Tell me with your words what's wrong.
Don't stand on the chair!	Sit on the on the chair	I like the way you are sitting! Wow you're sitting up big and tall!
Don't hit!	Hands down; Hands are for playing, eating, and hugging; Use your words (Give child appropriate words to use to express emotion)	You are using your words! Good for you!
No coloring on the wall!	Color on the paper	Look at what you've colored! Pretty picture!
Don't throw your toys!	Play with the toys on the floor	You're playing nicely. I really like to watch you play!
Stop playing with your food!	Food goes on the spoon and then in your mouth; Say "all done" when finished eating	Great! You're using your spoon! What nice manners, you said "all done;" you can go play now.
Don't play in the water/sink!	Wash your hands	Thanks for washing you're hands! I can tell they are really clean!
No biting!	We only bite food; Use your words if you're upset (Give child appropriate words to use to express emotion)	You're upset, thanks for telling me!
Don't spit!	Spit goes in toilet/tissue/grass; Use your words (Give child appropriate words to use to express emotion)	I like the way you used your words! Thanks for using your words!
Don't run!	Walk; Use walking feet; Stay with me; Hold my hand	Way to go! I like how you're walking Thanks for walking!