

Tips for Better Classroom Behavior

Reasonable Learning Expectations

1. Pray for God's help, both before class and with the class...and don't forget to pray afterwards, both thanking Him for how He worked and asking Him for more help, based on what you saw that day.

2. Give Clear, Specific Expectations of Expected Behavior

- Give these at the beginning of class, or at the beginning of each transition point between activities.
- Tell them how you will deal with their misbehavior (for example, "If you cannot show respect during game time you will be asked to leave the group and sit on a chair to the side of the room.")
- A child should raise his/her hand and wait for the teacher to call on him/her, when they have a question or comment

3. Do not ignore flagrant disobedience of clearly explained behavior expectations.

- Be willing to wait for silence and compliance.
- Do not just plow ahead and speak over the children or ignore their behavior.
- Disobedience does typically multiplies rather than disappears when ignored
- Remind the children of behavior expected.
- Do not be afraid to stop your activity and wait until they are cooperating.

4. Prepare the children for transitions between activities with clear instructions.

Many difficulties in behavior arise during transitions, partly because we do not give clearly tell children how we want them to behave.

- **Tell them WHEN you want them to move** (for example, "When I say "kitty cat" I want you to...")
- **Tell them HOW you want them to move** (for example, "When I say "kitty cat", I want you to put your hands on your head and walk quietly to...")
- **Tell them WHERE you want them to move** (for example, "when I say "kitty cat," I want you to put your hands on your head and walk quietly to the other room...")
- **Tell them WHAT YOU WANT THEM TO DO or NOT DO WHEN THEY GET THERE** (for example, "When I say "kitty cat," I want you to put your hands on your head and walk quietly to the other room and sit at the craft tables. Put your hands in your laps and do not touch the snack.")
- **Review with them WHAT YOU WANT THEM TO DO before you ask them to do it** (for example, "How should you go into the other room? What should you do when you get there? etc.)