

ADVICE SHEET

Top Techniques for Supporting

Positive Behaviour

1. Acknowledge and label the child's emotions - then give them time/space to calm down
2. Provide a calm quiet space for child to withdraw to if they are distressed. Teach them how to use the space when they are calm
3. Set clear consistent boundaries which all staff follow.
4. Use a calm but firm voice.
5. Use positive language e.g. change 'no' to 'stop.' - use visual clues such as 'signing' or cards to reinforce message.
6. Say the behaviour you do want not the behaviour you don't - 'Walk' instead of 'Don't run'
7. Don't use "would you?" or "Could you?" when giving instructions/requests.
8. Remember that instant reinforcers such as praise, smiles and signs to show approval are strong reinforcers.
9. As far as possible ignore unwanted behaviour, at the same time praise children nearby who are showing wanted behaviour
10. Look out for positive behaviour and praise accordingly; ensure you tell the child why you are pleased e.g. "Well done for sharing the toys."
11. Try using these words: 'When you have done....then you can'....e.g. 'When you have put the book on the shelf you can play on the computer.'
12. Teach social strategies where needed - such as 'turn taking' and then ensure these are generalized in every day activities
13. Redirect the child where possible. If you know there will be a problem be proactive and deal with the situation before it happens
14. Don't discuss incidents with parents/carers/ other staff members in front of the child or other children in the setting.
15. Give child the opportunities to see the consequences of their actions - "You made your friend angry/sad when you How can you make it better?"

