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**What a Child's Behavior
May be
Telling You**

Discipline

Discipline ***is not*** a punishing word.

Discipline ***is*** helping a child learn rules about life; right and wrong behavior.

“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.”

Proverbs 22:6



Prevention is the Best Strategy

Understanding Stages of Development

“Concerns and worries decrease when you know if a child’s behavior is within ‘the normal range’ for his age and abilities.”



Prevention is the Best Strategy

Know your kids

“When we know the children we are teaching, we can better anticipate their problem behaviors, develop realistic expectations, and set up classroom systems to meet needs and head off problems before they occur.”



Prevention is the Best Strategy

Acceptance and Unconditional Love

*“We are not required to approve of bad behavior,
but we are commanded
to love each child!”*



Prevention is the Best Strategy

Respond Based on the Child's Needs

*"Sometimes the child who deserves our love the least
is the one who needs it the most."*



Prevention is the Best Strategy

Consistency: Be Predictable

“Consistency makes it easier for kids to remember expectations for the long haul.”

Attention Seeking

- Greet the child and use his name
- Express appreciation and affirmation
- Use praise phrases
- Acknowledge feelings
- Rotate roles to insure equality
- Provide “hang time” with the adult

Avoiding Failure

- Avoid putting kids “on the spot”
- Use teams to find answers
- Focus on strengths
- Affirm different opinions/answers
- Be encouraging and affirm successes
- Break material into smaller chunks
- Develop symbols with some children

Angry

- Acknowledge feelings
- Read non-verbal signs of frustration
- Disagree agreeably
- Anger control techniques (such as a cool down area)
- Model proper behavior

Control Seeking

- Give choices
- Allow opportunity for children to contribute to the experience by giving responsibilities.
 - *Line Leader*
 - *Helping put out snacks*
 - *Prayer*
 - *Door Holder*
 - *Greeter*

Energetic

- Channel energy toward learning
- Use active teaching strategies
- Use transition activities
- Allow for “wiggle busters”
- Consider “stress toys”
- *Avoid suppressing who God made them to be.*

Bored

- Create and sustain interest
 - *Personal application*
 - *Name dropping*
 - *Listening questions*
 - *Change up the schedule*
 - *Vary teaching methods*
- Spark Motivation
 - *Projects*
 - *Appropriate level of difficulty*

Uninformed

- Be clear about expectations
- Use expectation reminders
- Mentors (peers or adults)
- Ask questions to reinforce expectations



Validate a Child's Position

- We all need extra attention sometimes.
- None of us wants to fail.
- All of us feel angry sometimes.
- None of us wants to be told what to do all the time.
- We all get bored occasionally.
- Some days we're all busting with energy.
- Sometimes we don't remember the rules.

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Think about it ...

“Kids will be less disruptive when they know the teacher is on their side, working with them to solve their problems, and helping them learn valuable life skills.”