

Positive Behaviors



One of your most important jobs as a parent or caregiver is to teach your child the behaviors that will help her do well in the world. By doing this, you help your child learn how to live and work with others. Your child will know that you care about her and that she can be successful.

Try this with:

Infants

- › *Give your baby as much love and attention as possible.* This helps her develop the trust and confidence she needs to learn and grow.
- › *Babies do not have control of their emotions or actions.* They are too young for discipline.

Young toddlers

- › *Set limits for safety.* At this point, you can start to say “no.” But save “no” for safety issues, such as touching the stove. If your child hears “no” too much, it will lose its meaning.
- › *Ask for your child’s help.* Start giving your child small ways to help out around the house. Ask, “Please put your yellow truck in the toy basket.” Give her a hug or a story when she does.
- › *Remove and replace.* When your child reaches for something “off limits,” take it away or move her away. Then give her something else to play with.

Older toddlers and preschoolers

- › *Catch your child being good.* Give her a hug or a thumbs up when she does something right.
- › *Be clear and direct.* Tell her what she should do instead of what she shouldn’t do. Say, “Please keep your food on the plate,” instead of “Don’t throw food.”
- › *Do what you say.* Did you tell your child that the next time she throws food, you are leaving Grandma’s house? Then, if she does it again, be sure to pick up and go.
- › *Give choices.* At this age, children like to feel in charge. Having choices helps them stay positive. Before bed you might ask, “Do you want to wear the green pajamas or the yellow ones?”

Born LearningSM is a public engagement campaign helping parents, caregivers and communities create early learning opportunities for young children. Designed to support you in your critical role as a child’s first teacher, Born Learning educational materials are made available through the efforts of United Way, United Way Success By 6 and Civitas. For more information, visit us online at www.bornlearning.org.



BornLearningUpstateSC.org

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