

Initial Guides to Speech and Action

From Early Childhood Programs: Human Relationships and Learning, Katherine Read, et al.

1. State suggestions or directions in a positive rather than a negative form.
2. Give the child a choice only when you are prepared to leave the choice up to him.
3. Use your voice as a teaching tool. Your words and tone of voice should help the child to feel confident and reassured.
4. Avoid trying to change behavior by methods that may lead to loss of self-respect, such as shaming or labeling behavior naughty or selfish.
5. Avoid motivating a child by making comparisons between one child and another or by encouraging competition.
6. Redirect the child by suggesting an activity that is related to his own purposes or interests whenever possible.
7. Give a direction or suggestion at the time that it will be most effective.
8. Avoid making models in any art medium for the children to copy.
9. Give the child the minimum help in order that he may have the maximum chance to grow in independence; but give the child help when he needs it.
10. Make your directions effective by reinforcing them when necessary.
11. Learn to foresee and prevent rather than mop up after a difficulty.
12. Define limits clearly and maintain them consistently.
13. Be alert to the total situation. Use the most strategic positions for supervising.
14. Make health and safety a primary concern at all times.
15. Increase your own awareness by observing and taking notes.