

## Information for parents and teachers

### Behaviour Strategies

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Behaviour of children can be a cause of great concern for many parents and teachers. The following outlines some strategies that adults can use to develop appropriate and on task behaviour in young children:

- Always make sure that your expectations are appropriate to the age of the child.
- Outline what your expectations are in a clear manner.
- Provide choices wherever possible.
- Involve children in the solving of problems that relate to them.
- Ensure the environment in which they are playing or working is safe and secure.
- Plan for transition times. How will you finish one activity before starting another activity or task?
- Ensure periods of active play are followed by periods of quiet play.
- Model expected behaviour for children. Tell them and show them how to behave in different situations.
- Reinforce appropriate behaviour. Do not wait until inappropriate behaviour occurs to comment. Strike while the iron is hot.
- State rules and directions in a positive way. Say "We walk indoors" rather than "No running inside".
- Ensure the child understands the consequences of his or her behaviour. For example, the television can be turned on when all homework is completed. If games and toys are left lying around the house, you will put them in the "lost and found" box, which will be put away for three days.
- Follow through with consequences. If you say you will do something, do it. Therefore also make the consequences realistic, reasonable and fair. Consequences should be a natural result of the child's behaviour or actions.
- Encourage children to show kindness and to assist other people and acknowledge their attempts to help others. Constantly say: "We will hang up the bath towel because mummy will like it and it helps the towel to dry" or "We will not leave wet clothes on the floor because the carpet will become mouldy. We put them in the washing machine".

### For more Information

If you require further information please contact:

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