

Positive Discipline for Preschoolers

Discipline is often thought of as a negative way to get children to obey. When you practice positive discipline you will have a learning environment that is safe, healthy, and exciting. Children will want to come to club and parents will be confident that their children are being well taken care of.

What is discipline and why do we need it?

What causes children to disobey or be difficult in class?

- Understand A_____ by A_____
- Understand
- L_____ S_____
- Communicate clear and understandable E_____ to leaders, parents, and children.
- Establish A_____ A_____ class rules and then abide by them.
- Allow C_____ that can be made by the children when appropriate.
- Give R_____ to the children.
- Establish clear and age appropriate C_____. (in accordance with your church's policies and procedure.
- Help them to R_____ problems themselves.
- Maintain a S_____ environment.
- Get to K_____ your children and their families.
- Meet and greet parents, developing a P_____ relationship with them.
- Establish a R_____/S_____, yet be flexible.

How They Learn

- Senses: Touch, Taste, Smell, Sight, Sound
- Curiosity: What, Why, Who, Where, How?
- Hands-on experience: Craft and Activity Projects
- Satisfaction: Accomplishment, "I did it!"
- Imitation: Dramatic play, Watching leaders and others
- Play: Large motor skills, Interaction
- Repetition: Building their learning & abilities
- Relationships: Parents, authority, the church and God

Learning Styles

Visual: Remembers/understands information best when using pictures or objects.

Auditory: Remembers/understands information best when presented with sound or orally. Prefers to listen to stories.

Kinesthetic: Remembers/understands information best by engaging in physical activities.

Tactile: Remembers/understands information best by using their sense of touch or moving objects.

Positive Discipline for Special Needs Children

- Educate yourself about Special Needs in general
- Talk with their care giver, they will be the best way to understanding how to work with their child.
- Don't provide a diagnosis if the parent or care giver has not made you aware of in issue.
- Provide a safe space.
- Adapt activities to help children to participate. Avoid forcing them to participate.
- Allow extra time to allow child to finish an activity or their project.
- Enlist an extra teacher to assist.
- Be prepared to be flexible and practice compassion and patience.
- Encourage the other children in the class to be kind and considerate.
- Affirm with praise and encouragement.
- Have a plan in place to meet the needs of Special Needs children.

Positive Discipline: It Begins with You!

Discipline isn't just for the children, it really starts with those who are teaching children.

As a Leader:

Be Realistic, there are times when children are going to do exactly the opposite of what you want them to do.

Be Joyful even when you don't feel like. At times you will need to check your troubles at the door and walk in with a smile.

Be Humble and remember that you have limits too. If you are struggling, share it with your director or another leader.

Be Knowledgeable and understanding of how the different age levels learn and behave.

Be Flexible because there are times when the activity will not go as you had planned.

Be Understanding, even children come to club with troubles of their own.

Be Organized by setting your class/club standards and have all your teachers adhere to them.

Be Specific in your expectations or directions both to the children and leadership.

Be Confident in what you are doing.

Be On Time and Ready, arriving before class begins with lessons plans and stay after to help clean up.

Resources:

- *Special Needs Guide* (Item #74375) from Awana.org
- "Church Nanny SOS: Teaching Discipline Essentials for Preschool Ministry Volunteers" by Gigi Schweikert
- Levels of Biblical Learning www.lifeway.com/en/special-emphasis/levels-of-biblical-learning