



POSITIVE GUIDANCE

CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOR

Children's behavior is learned.

1. The Family
2. The Community
3. The Environment
4. The Culture



A child's temperament and his/her learned coping skills are critical to the youngster's being able to manage their behavior



REASONS CHILDREN MISBEHAVE

- Attention
- Power
- Revenge
- Inadequacy



WHAT DOES LICENSING SAY?

Discipline must be:

- (1) Individualized and consistent for each child;
- (2) Appropriate to the child's level of understanding; and
- (3) Directed toward teaching the child acceptable behavior and self-control.

A caregiver may only use positive methods of discipline and guidance that encourage self-esteem, self-control, and self-direction, which include at least the following:

- (1) Using praise and encouragement of good behavior instead of focusing only upon unacceptable behavior;
- (2) Reminding a child of behavior expectations daily by using clear, positive statements;
- (3) Redirecting behavior using positive statements; and
- (4) Using brief supervised separation or time out from the group, when appropriate for the child's age and development, which is limited to no more than one minute per year of the child's age.



WHAT IS PUNISHMENT

- **Means to cause pain**
- **Creates FEAR**
- **Tears away at a child's self-worth**
- **Offers no explanations or solutions**
- **Says that it is okay for people who love each other to hurt each other**



WHAT IS POSITIVE GUIDANCE

- Means to help develop self-control and character
- Used to help children develop self control
- Creates courage
- Offers explanations and solutions
- Says people who love each other do not hurt each other



AGES AND STAGES

- Helps you understand your child's major job at different ages
- Helps you not expect too much
- Helps you prevent serious problems
- Helps you provide safe ways for your child to do their job



POSITIVE GUIDANCE BEGINS WITH ADULT BEHAVIOR

- Good limit setting
- Clearly communicating limits
- Teaching more appropriate behavior
- Giving cues for the new behavior (transition)
- Giving choices
- Changing a situation
- Ignoring a behavior when it is appropriate



POSITIVE ADULT MANAGING STRATEGIES

- Redirection
- Active listening
- I – messages
- Conflict resolution
- Recognizing and dealing with strong emotions
- Natural or logical consequences



Summary Thoughts

*I tried to teach my child with books
He only gave me puzzled looks*

*I tried to teach my child with words
They passed him by often unheard*

*Despairingly I turned aside
"How shall I teach this child?" I cried*

*Into my hand, he put the key
"Come, he said, play with me."*

--Anonymous

