

1. Tell a child what to do instead of what not to do.
2. Show the child by modeling or using a picture of the action.
3. Clearly and simply state what you expect the child to do.
4. Remember young children might have inappropriate behavior because they don't understand the social rules of an activity or interaction.
5. Communicate, with words, signs, or pictures, using language they might understand.
6. Encourage children in a way that lets them know that they are exhibiting the desired behavior
7. Be enthusiastic and generous with encouragement. Children can never get enough!

Examples:

Avoid	Say/Model	Remember
Don't run!	Walk; Stay with me; Hold my hand	Way to go! Look at you moving safely. Thanks for walking!
Stop climbing!	Keep your feet on the floor	Wow! You have both feet on the floor!
Don't touch!	Keep your hands down; Look with your eyes	You are being safe; you are looking with hands down!
No Yelling!	Use a calm voice; Use an inside voice	(In a low voice) Now I can listen; you are using a calm (inside) voice.
Stop whining!	Use your words/signs/pictures/device so I can help you	Now I can hear you; that is so much better. Show or tell me what's wrong.
Don't stand on the chair!	Sit on the chair	You are sitting on the chair! Wow you're sitting up big and tall!
No coloring on the wall	Color on the paper	Look at what you've colored! Tell me about your picture.
Don't throw your toys!	Play with the toys on the floor	You're playing nicely and keeping the toys on the floor. Your friends are having fun playing with you!
Stop taking big bites!	One bite at a time; chew first, and then you can have another bite.	Great job taking small bites, you are eating safely!
Don't play in the water/sink!	Wash your hands	Thanks for washing your hands! I can tell they are really clean!
No biting!	We only bite food; Show or tell me if you're upset (give the child appropriate words, signs, or visuals to use to express emotion)	You're upset, thanks for sharing that with me!
Don't hit!	Hands are for playing, eating, and hugging; Use your words or signs (give the child appropriate words, signs, or visuals to use to express emotion)	You are being gentle! Good for you!