

Use Positive Words

Tell the child what to do instead of what not to do.

Clearly and simply state what you expect the child to do.

Have age appropriate expectations.



Use age appropriate language. Young children have difficulty with contractions (two words that are combined to form one such as don't and can't).

Examples:

Don't:	Do:
Don't run!	Walk Use walking feet Stay with me Hold my hand
Stop climbing!	Keep your feet on the floor
Don't touch!	Keep your hands down Look with your eyes
No yelling!	Use a calm voice Use an inside voice
Stop whining!	Use a calm voice
Don't stand on the couch!	Sit on the couch
Don't hit	Hands down Use your words (Give child appropriate words to use)
Stop pulling the dogs tail!	Pet gently Gentle hands
No coloring on the wall!	Color on the paper
Don't throw your truck!	Roll your truck on the floor
Stop playing with your food!	Food goes on the spoon and then in your mouth Say all done
Stop splashing the water!	Keep the water in the tub
Don't get out of bed!	Stay in bed
No biting!	We only bite food Use your words (Give child appropriate words to use)
Don't spit!	Spit goes in toilet/grass Use your words (Give child appropriate words to use)

Adapted from: Hornbeck, M. (2002). Early Intervention Positive Behavior Support Parent Training Series. USF.

