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.

Busy Box Ideas
Special Needs
It begins with You!

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.

**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](http://www.lifeway.com/en/special-emphasis/levels-of-biblical-learning)

Busy Box Ideas

A busy box is something you can use to keep a child active in a positive way. You can choose to use this how it best suits your class situation.

Use a Busy Box when you need an extra activity, you don’t want a child waiting, maybe only on special occasions or holiday or as a reward.

* **Ideas of what you can put it in it:**

Pipe Cleaners (Chenille Sticks)
Play dough
Matching games/cards
Tracing Worksheets
Counting Items
Holiday/ Seasonal items
I spy bottles
Craft Sticks with Velcro
Simple Puzzles
Bible Story felts
Picture Books
Stickers
Easy Puzzles
Finger puppets
What else can you
think of?

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.