



Phrases for Behavior

Throughout the day a variety of scenarios arise and it is helpful to have a familiar phrase to facilitate a positive outcome. These are some that USUALLY work.

- ✓ I'll save it for you.
- ✓ It's time to...(Or) Five more minutes until...
- ✓ The choices are...(Give 2 options).
- ✓ That's not a choice
- ✓ Good job. (Or) What a helper. (Or) You worked very hard on that. (And many more.)
- ✓ That's not okay or acceptable.
- ✓ I see Joey helping.
- ✓ Your job is...
- ✓ Do you want to...(Give 2 choices.)? Sit with the group or in the library / eat your food or put it away?
- ✓ What are you going to do next?
- ✓ Sarah is talking to you? It's your turn to listen.
- ✓ What's the problem?
- ✓ Please sit on your bottom. (If the child doesn't respond then ask...) Do you need me to help you sit on your bottom?
- ✓ Good Listening.
- ✓ Who will be my helper? Or I need a helper.
- ✓ This is my last warning. (State a consequence and follow through.) If you play with your food then it will be put away.
- ✓ It's hard to wait, but please be patient. It's almost your turn.
- ✓ Teasing, hitting, etc. is not okay.
- ✓ You put the blocks away and I'll put the dishes away. (Share the workload.)
- ✓ I don't understand whining. Use a strong / clear voice.
- ✓ It makes me feel...when...(Use appropriate feelings to fit the situation: frustrated, angry, sad, tired, happy, excited, silly, etc.)
- ✓ How can we work this out/solve this problem?
- ✓ What would be a different idea / word?
- ✓ What can you do to help the situation?
- ✓ What do you need to feel better?
- ✓ When a child says "I can't," encourage her/him to say, "I'm trying."
- ✓ You try first then we will do it together.
- ✓ That's too rough.
- ✓ If a child frequently asks you to help or play encourage her/him to "ask a friend".
- ✓ When a child asks you to make or draw something, politely decline. "But then it will be my picture, structure, etc. Show me how you do it, show me your idea."
- ✓ Emphasize "taking turns" and avoid using the word "share". Effective alternatives are "You can be next." And "I want a turn when you're done."
- ✓ Share your feelings with the child. "I'm beginning to get frustrated because..." or "It really helps me when you..."
- ✓ If a child persists with the same question then reply, "I've given you my answer. No more ball playing until after dinner." Have her/him repeat your statement to ensure understanding.