

Behavior Management: How to Keep Your Cool While Working with Youth Groups

Quick Reference of Techniques for Managing Children's Behavior

- Give choices
- Use a variety activities – teach to all learning styles
- Use humor
- Set clear expectations (rules, schedule, actions, etc.)
- Carefully plan and prepare for activities
- Choose age appropriate activities
- Plan for transitions (before, in-between and after)
- Show interest in and get to know each child
- Emphasize cooperation over competition
- Show concern
- Separate the child(ren)
- Use natural consequences
- Ignore the behavior
- Involve youth in planning
- Tell what “to do” rather than “what not to do”
- Allow time to practice
- Demonstrate the task or skill
- Redirect or distract
- Surprise them with unexpected response or action
- Provide rewards
- Seek help/call 911
- Other

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