

ESTABLISH CLASSROOM RULES

Support pro-social behaviors for your students



"It is the role of early childhood teachers to facilitate the development of these (pro-social) behaviors in young children. Positive play opportunities, modeling, coaching, optimal room environments, and carefully designed curriculums lay the foundation." -Kathy Preusse (earlychildhoodnews article 566)

Here are some guidelines for establishing rules in your classroom:

- Limit the number of classroom rules to 4 or 5 rules. Too many rules are confusing.
- When children play an active role in creating the rules, they are more inclined to understand and follow them.
- Rules should be few, clear, short and positive with phrases like "Walking feet" rather than "No running" and should include a picture next to the rule.
- Actively model what it looks like to follow the rules. Better yet, have children act them out during circle time!
- Be very specific when directing children, e.g., after giving a one minute warning "Place the toys back on the shelf where you are playing and then take a seat at circle."
- Rules should be displayed at children's eye level all year long and referred to and discussed often, pointing to the written statement and the picture.