

# Promoting positive behaviour



## Set clear boundaries

Decide on a few 'golden rules' which are easy to understand. Keep them **simple and positive** e.g. we listen to each other; we walk inside; we take turns. Display the rules at children's eye level and refer to them regularly. Encourage children to spot others following the 'golden rules' and say well done!



## Make it personal

Position yourself at the **children's eye level** when talking to them. Use their names and encourage them to make eye contact with you. Remember the age and stage of the children and be **realistic** in your expectations e.g. it is normal for a two-year-old to struggle with sharing!



## Connect before you correct

Acknowledge what they are upset about **before you correct them** e.g. That is a great drum you are holding (connect). Remember at nursery we take turns and we don't take toys away from others. (correct) You need to give the drum back to xxxx and then you can have a turn in a few minutes."



## Add the because...

Give children a reason for **why** you are asking them to do something and keep it simple e.g. 'please can you keep the scissors at the table **BECAUSE** I don't want anyone to get hurt walking around with them' or 'Please can you sit on your bottoms when you are looking at the book **BECAUSE** other children behind you need to be able to see.'



## Two choices

Offer two choices and keep them simple e.g. "You can carry on playing in the sand with your friends or if you keep throwing the sand you will have to go and play somewhere else. **What are you going to choose?**" Give **specific praise** if they make a good choice e.g. "Well done, you made a really good choice to not throw the sand anymore!"



## Talk about their feelings

Narrate children's feelings based on their actions e.g. if a child throws a toy and stamps their feet you could say 'Oh dear, I think you are **feeling cross** right now. Let's put the toy back and talk about how to help you feel better?' or if a child is sitting alone and crying you could say, "Oh no, I think you are **feeling sad / upset / worried / lonely**...shall we work out how to help you feel better?"