## **COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY**

- 1. Tell a child what to do instead of what not to do.
- 2. Show the child by modeling or using a picture of the action.
- 3. Clearly and simply state what you expect the child to do.
- 4. Remember young children use inappropriate behavior because they may not understand the social rules yet.
- 5. Talk to young children using language they understand. Young children may not understand words like "don't" because it is a short word for "do not" and he/she may not know what the "negation" of a word means.
- 6. Encourage the child in a way that lets him/her know that he/she is exhibiting the desired behavior
- 7. Be enthusiastic and generous with encouragement. Children can never get enough!

## **Examples:**

Say/Model Avoid Remember Don't run! Walk; Use walking feet; Stay with me; Way to go! Hold my hand I like how you're walking. Thanks for walking! Stop climbing! Keep your feet on the floor Wow! You have both feet on the floor! Don't touch! Keep your hands down; Look with your You are such a good listener; you are looking with hands down! No yelling! Use a calm voice; Use an inside voice [In a low voice] Now I can listen, you are using a calm (inside) voice. Stop whining! Use a calm voice; Talk so that I can Now I can hear you; that is so much better. understand you; Talk like a big boy/girl Tell me with your words what's wrong. Don't stand on the chair! Sit on the on the chair I like the way you are sitting! Wow you're sitting up big and tall! Don't hit! Hands down; Hands are for playing, You are using your words! Good for you! eating, and hugging; Use your words (Give child appropriate words to use to express emotion) No coloring on the wall! Color on the paper Look at what you've colored! Pretty picture! Play with the toys on the floor Don't throw your toys! You're playing nicely. I really like to watch you play! Great! You're using your spoon! What Stop playing with your food! Food goes on the spoon and then in your mouth; Say "all done" when finished nice manners, you said "all done;" you eating can go play now. Thanks for washing you're hands! I can Don't play in the water/sink! Wash your hands tell they are really clean! No biting! We only bite food; Use your words if You're upset, thanks for telling me! you're upset (Give child appropriate words to use to express emotion) Don't spit! Spit goes in toilet/tissue/grass; Use your I like the way you used your words! words (Give child appropriate words to Thanks for using your words! use to express emotion) Walk; Use walking feet; Stay with me; Don't run! Way to go! Hold my hand I like how you're walking Thanks for walking!

