CHILD-LEVEL GUIDE

Jump Start
Early Childhood Consultation

An Initiative of THE CHILDREN'S TRUST | THRIVE BY 5

HOW TO HELP CHILDREN COMMUNICATE NEEDS AND WANTS

DID YOU KNOW?

Teaching children to communicate their wants and needs with words and gestures helps them initiate and organize activities.

Teach children how to get your attention and communicate preferences including dislikes in a positive way.

Showing interest in children's plans encourages initiative, shows support, and enhances their decision-making skills.

Prepare for challenges by prompting the child to follow first, then use verbal or visual cues.

It is helpful to anticipate what the child may do or need to prevent challenging behaviors. For example, give an active child a task during transitions.

Use positive words, actions, and emotions to give children feedback and encouragement. Stay calm to model desired behavior.

How do you encourage a child to ask for help?

REFLECT ON THIS...

Follow the child's lead when they initiate communication and interactions.

Try to understand the meaning of the child's behavior.

Tell and show the child what to do instead of what not to do.

Reinforce the child's constructive ways to seek attention.

Recommended Material: Best Behavior Book Series

Watch our Positive Attention Video and...

START YOUR JOURNEY!

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REMEMBER TO RELAX, REFLECT, AND THEN RESPOND