

Guidelines for raising well-behaved children

Whenever possible, teach rather than punish.

View children's misbehaviour as a mistake in judgment, it will be easier to think of ways to teach more acceptable behaviour.

Whenever possible make consequences relate to misbehaviour; if a child makes a mess, they should clean it up.

Have behaviour rules but make sure they are few in number, reasonable, and appropriate to the child's age and development.

Make sure that consequences for misbehaviour are reasonable and clear.

Do not argue or nag children about rules. If a rule is broken, remind the child of the rules and the consequences for not following the rule. Be sure to speak in a firm voice and repeat the command.



If your child has many behaviours that concern you, do not try to change all of them at once. Choose one behaviour of concern. Explain why the behaviour is a problem, provide consequences, and praise the behaviour opposite to the misbehaviour.

Distract infants and toddlers when they are doing something you do not like or remove them from the situation. Infants and toddlers do not understand what is right and wrong and should not be hit or shaken.

Use good manners when talking to children about their behaviour. Be sure to use "I'm sorry," "may I?", and "excuse me" when they are appropriate. Be a good model for your children in your speech and actions.