

Positive Guidance Strategies

Video Transcript

Title Screen: Positive Guidance Strategies, The Maryland EXCELS and Maryland State Department of Education logos.

This video is an animated presentation where the content on the slides is represented in the narration.

Narrator: Positive guidance strategies influence children's behavior and improve the overall well-being of both children and adults in your program.

Positive Guidance is a proactive approach to behavior management that emphasizes positive outcomes to promote children's development. It's about understanding a child's abilities and their development to set realistic expectations based on where they are, not on where we wish they were.

Positive Guidance encourages children to think for themselves, make good decisions, and figure out how to handle situations on their own with the support of the caring adults in their lives. It teaches children to regulate their emotions, which relates to school readiness. Children will be better equipped for success in kindergarten if they can identify their emotions and manage their behaviors.

Positive Guidance is a part of everything that children experience in your program, through daily routines, interactions, and lesson plans. It's not just a response to challenging behavior but a consistent, proactive approach that supports children's ongoing development.

Positive Guidance must be tailored to each child's current developmental level. Understanding developmental milestones and school readiness goals leads to more effective and appropriate strategies when guiding children's behavior.

You will now have an opportunity to reflect on your program and practices. Think about it.

- Are your program's expectations of behavior appropriate for the child's age and developmental needs?
- How do you and any staff show respect for the children and their feelings in their classroom?

Please take advantage of this time to answer the questions. This will help you build an effective Positive Guidance Policy or strengthen the policy your program already has.