

The Look

Primary Objectives/Dimensions

1b. Follows limits and expectations

Why It's Important

Your child looks to you to help her guide her behavior. As your child's listening and comprehension skills develop, she begins to understand the meaning of your facial expressions, gestures, and simple language.

Materials

None

What You Do

1. Watch for opportunities to guide your child's behavior, such as when she looks at you as she begins to climb on a bookshelf or before she reaches for a new toy.
2. Make eye contact with your child. Use your facial expressions, voice, and gestures to guide her behavior.
3. You can use this strategy for both unacceptable and acceptable behaviors. For example, if your child climbs in a chair unsafely, you might furrow your brow, shake your head, say *No*, point to the ground, and say, *Be safe, feet down*.
4. Another example might be when your child sees a new toy on the floor, crawls toward it, and then looks back at you. You could offer your child encouragement by smiling and nodding.
5. Observe to see how and when your child uses your facial expression, gestures, and voice to guide her behavior. You may find that a particular combination (e.g., facial expression and tone of voice) works best.