

# 7 Steps for Resolving Behavior Issues

## ① **Have Clear Expectations:** Let them know what you expect of them

Go over the rules. Make the rules clear and simple. Frequently remind children how they should behave.

## ② **Use Positive Reinforcement:** Praise the ones following instructions

For example: “Thank you John/front row for showing me you are ready.” Once the others begin to follow, praise and thank them as well.

## ③ **Be Close By:** Stand near the ones misbehaving

You may not have to say anything just yet. Stand close to the ones misbehaving, the problem just might fix itself.

## ④ **Ask Questions:** Find out what's going on by letting them explain

Ask if they know what they are supposed to be doing (*they usually know*). Then ask why they aren't doing it. \*There may be a legit reason for the misbehavior.

## 7 Tips when Dealing With Behavior Issues

### 5 Give Them Ownership: Make them part of the solution

Ask them how to fix the problem. They may need some guidance; offer some options and let them decide. At the very least get them to agree to your solution and hold them to it! \*May need to repeat this step a few times before moving to step 6.

### 6 Removal: Temporarily remove them from the situation

Remove them from the situation and repeat steps 4 and 5. Then bring them back.

\*Removal helps reset the tone for the child and others. For several children, remove the instigator or one at a time.

### 7 Contact Parent: Get the parents involved

Each organization has their own way of dealing with the next level of discipline. In most cases, this is the time to bring in the parents. There may be something going on that needs to be addressed.

Most behavior issues are avoidable by keeping children engaged. Misbehavior is often the cause of boredom, not necessarily defiance.