



Change Negative to Positive

*Children need to hear what they can do
in a positive way*

Positive Reinforcement is a strong tool to modify children's behavior by reinforcing desired behaviors. The fact that it does not use punishment, intimidation, or other things that can hurt the child's self-esteem, emotional relationship with a parent or caregiver has made positive reinforcements popular around the world and is used in many classrooms.

Positive Reinforcement is a familiar enough term in modern society. It is a method of behavior modification and a component of behavior change, which is one of many themes in early childhood education.

Hereunder you will find some simple guidance on changing the way we communicate with children which makes all the difference for them and hardly an effort from us adults.

Give it a try to make a difference!!

Negative	Positive
What we mostly seem to say!	What changes their response and our own good feel
Don't run →	Use your walking feet.
Don't hit →	Please touch softly/ be gentle
Don't yell/Don't scream →	Use inside voices/ Use a quiet voice please.
Don't fight →	Use your words, please.
Don't climb on the table →	Keep your feet on the floor, please.
Don't go up the slide →	Go down the slide (go up the stairs and down the slide).
Don't throw sand →	Keep the sand in the sandpit.
Don't step on the books →	Be careful with the books/
Don't throw toys →	Keep your feet off the books otherwise they break.
	Your friends will be hurt and the toys will break.

Children need to hear positive words and be positively affirmed of what you request them how to behave or ask them to do. A good ratio is to find 9 positive things to say to a child for every single negative or corrective remark. That means that nine times out of ten, when a child is called or spoken to, it will be able to hear something positive. This could also include neutral statements like "Chi Chi, you have nice blue ribbons in your hair today", "you're wearing a red dress (batman shirt) today".

Building a language rich environment is about using every opportunity to use language, to interact, to share a focus, to talk, to take turns. Building a language rich environment is also about building a nurturing environment, giving your child love and affection and building their self-confidence. And finally, it is about building a learning environment, creating a place where love, language and learning can all take place together.

So what do you do to create this environment? Well firstly look at yourself and how you are communicating with your child.

More in general the first 3 years of life, when the brain is developing and maturing, is the most intensive period for acquiring speech and language skills. These skills develop best in a world that is rich with sounds, sights, and consistent exposure to the speech and language of others.