



Behaviour Management

Discipline is the education of a person's character. It includes nurturing, training, instruction, chastisement, verbal rebuke, teaching and encouragement. It brings security, produces character, prepares for life, is evidence of love and is God's heart. (Hebrews 12:5-12 and Proverbs 22:6)

For each programme for children and young people have some basic rules, which the members can add to and alter. These basic rules can be: *Respect each other, the leaders and the equipment*. If these rules are broken appropriate action can be taken from these guidelines.

Work on each individual child's positives, do not compare them with each other, but encourage and build them up, giving them responsibility for simple tasks.

Build healthy relationships with children and be a good role model, setting a good example. You can't expect children to observe ground rules if you break them yourself.

Take care to give quieter and well behaved children attention and don't allow some children to take all your time and energy.

Be consistent in what you say and ensure that other team members know what you have said - this **avoids manipulation**.

Look honestly at your programme - if children are bored, they misbehave. Is the programme at fault?

NEVER smack or hit a child and don't shout. - change your voice tone if necessary.

Discipline out of love NEVER anger. (Call on support from other leaders if you feel you may deal with the situation unwisely in your anger.)

Each child is unique, special and individual, and each child needs a different method of being dealt with. We need to ask why the child is behaving that way.

Separate children who have a tendency to be disruptive when together. Give them a chance, warn them, and only separate if they are disruptive as a last resort.

Have the child sit right in front of you or get a helper to sit next to the child.

Be pro-active and encourage helpers to be pro-active and not wait to be told to deal with a situation.

Take the child aside and talk to them, challenge them to change, whilst encouraging them on their strengths.

Warn a child that you will speak to their parents and do so if necessary. Warn them, send them outside the room (ensure supervision), bring them back into the service, or ban them for a week. (Never a total ban without reference to your leader and ensure parents are advised in cases of banning.)

If a child's behaviour is constantly disruptive, seek advice and guidance from a leader. Pray before you meet and talk over the session before you leave.