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## **Guiding Infant / Toddler Behavior**

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Guidance does NOT mean punishment

Guidance DOES mean helping children to learn POSITIVE  
ways to interact

### **What You Can Do**

Distract, divert, re-direct

Avoid turning normal behavior into an “issue”

Use SIMPLE meaningful words

Say & show what you WANT them to do

Give real and simple CHOICES

Have DUPLICATE toys (because young  
children are unable to wait patiently)

Be warm, loving, caring

Use soothing skills and activities

Never yell

Avoid isolation and time-out

Avoid power struggles

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## **Guidelines For Preventing Behavior Problems**

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Base expectations and experiences on DEVELOPMENT

Give children a sense of POWER

AVOID power struggles

Let children make REAL CHOICES

Help children PROBLEM-SOLVE

IGNORE negative behavior

Focus on DESIRABLE behavior

Model and say what you WANT to happen

Avoid "Time-out" – Provide "Time-in"

Practice and share SOOTHING SKILLS

Help the child to identify FEELINGS

Focus on empowering the VICTIM

Instead of praise, use ENCOURAGEMENT

### **Encouragement Statements**

*I know you can do this.*

*I know this is hard.*

*What can you do to ...*

*What will it take to ...*

*What kind of help can I give to ...*