

# THE DO'S & DON'TS OF DISCIPLINE

ABC WORKSHOP, Sept. 14, 2019 by Rev. Tolman Yung

“Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.”

Hebrews 12:10, 11



## THE DO'S:

### 1. DO SMILE A LOT AND BE RELAXED.

If the teacher is high-strung and uptight, the kids will be hyper and “act up.”

### 2. DO LEARN THE CHILDREN'S NAMES.

Many kids will think you don't care about them if you don't bother to remember their names. Do have nametags for the kids and teachers.

### 3. DO HAVE A GOOD CURRICULUM

The newer ones have lots of visuals, music, and support activities to keep the kids interested.

### 4. DO BE WELL PREPARED.

Have your Bible lesson and activities well planned during the week. Set up the room early before the kids arrive. Kids can go wild if they sense the teachers do not know what they are doing. Have “rainy day” activities ready. Have a prayer, quiet time, and a drink before class.

### 5. DO SET UP THE CLASS FOR LEARNING.

- Preschoolers should face the teacher for the story (not circle time)
- Preschoolers should sit in chairs instead of on rugs.
- For the lesson, kids should face the teacher who stands against an uncluttered wall.
- Elementary kids should face the teacher for the lesson (sit in circle for discussions)
- Use kid size chairs and tables.
- If possible, use a projector with power point. Laptops for the story are good in small classes.

### 6. DO STOP MISBEHAVIOR IN ITS EARLY STAGES.

By waiting too long and allowing the misbehavior to get out of control, it will be much more difficult to handle. Misbehavior that goes on for many weeks will be very difficult to change.

### 7. DO EXPLAIN WHAT BEHAVIOR YOU EXPECT WHENEVER YOU START EACH ACTIVITY.

Tell your kids *what* they will be doing and *how* you want them to behave while doing it. At the end of the activity, stop the class for a moment and tell them if they behaved well or could use improvement. (“**Behavioral Expectations**”)

### 8. DO LEARN “TEACHER TALK”

- WHENEVER YOU SEE GOOD BEHAVIOR. **Positive Reinforcement**  
Use the phrase, “I like the way you \_\_\_\_\_.”
- WHENEVER YOU SEE MISBEHAVIOR.  
Use the phrase, “You need to \_\_\_\_\_.”

(SEE ATTACHED HANDOUTS ON “TEACHER TALK”)

# THE DON'TS:

## 1. DO NOT BE A CAREER PART-TIME AND ON-THE-ROTATION TEACHER

Kids learn about God's love through their teachers. Rotational teachers show that their love for the kids is not full time, and maybe that God's love for them is not full time, either. Also, kids do not bond with substitute teachers and often become discipline problems when their "real teacher" is away.

## 2. DO NOT USE THE LECTURE METHOD ALL THE TIME (1 WAY LEARNING)

Older kids enjoy a variety of learning methods. A good curriculum will have suggestions.

## 3. DO NOT MAKE THE KIDS WAIT FOR THINGS TO START.

- Some kids are impatient and will get in trouble. Plan for smooth and quick startups..
- If possible, avoid making kids wait in line.
- Being prepared and organized will eliminate much of the discipline problems.

## 4. DO NOT DISCIPLINE A CHILD BY "CORPORAL" PUNISHMENT" OR BY PERFORMING AN ATHLETIC TASK . (PUSHUPS, SITUPS, JUMPING JACKS, STAND AT ATTENTION, RUNNING LAPS, ETC.)

## 5. DO NOT USE THE WORD "PUNISHMENT." USE THE WORD "CONSEQUENCE" OR "PENALTY" INSTEAD.

## 6. DO NOT GET ANGRY OR YELL AT A CHILD.

Practice saying, "**You need to** \_\_\_\_\_ ..." in a stern manner. Be clear what you want the child to do, and not just what you don't want the child to do.

## 7. DO NOT USE "**THREATS**"

Threats are usually "**if you, then** \_\_\_\_\_" clauses.

An example of a threat - "**if you** two girls keep talking in class, **then** I will separate you."

Instead, say, "**You** (two girls) **need to** stop talking and listen to the lesson."

## 8. DO NOT LET KIDS GO TO THE RESTROOM AUTOMATICALLY.

Ask the child to wait until the activity is over. The child's body language will tell you if it is urgent.

## 9. DO NOT HANDLE DIFFICULT CHILDREN ALONE.

Meet with your other teachers to share observations and suggestions on how to handle difficult children. While all teachers need to be consistent on how they interact with all the children, it is especially important to handle difficult children the same way.

## 10. DO NOT ALLOW A HOSTILE CHILD TO REMAIN WITH THE OTHER CHILDREN.

A child with hostility or aggression is one who intentionally harms a person or property. Immediately separate the child from the others. Remove the child and have someone locate the parent for pick up. The teacher writes a report of what behavior was observed and gives a copy to the parent, the children's leader and the pastors.

Difficult children are never told that they cannot come to church, even if they commit acts of hostility. However, a condition for the child's return may be the supervising presence of the parent. The minimum of 1 month is recommended.