

# TEACHER TALK - ELEMENTARY AGE

## Redirecting Misbehavior with a “Directive”

### Changing Misbehavior with the “5 to 1 Rule”

#### Redirecting Misbehavior with a “Directive”

1. A **directive** is used to redirect a child’s misbehavior that is not *intentionally* or maliciously harmful.



“But what if the child is hostile and deliberately did something harmful?”

If a child commits a hostile act of violence or aggression, ignore the **directive** and, instead, **IMMEDIATELY REMOVE THE CHILD.**

2. To convey your **directive**, use the phrase “**You need to...**”
  - A. “**You need to** keep God’s House clean. You left your cup on the table. Put it in the trash can.”
  - B. “**You need to** line up quietly. Let’s not bother the other classes.”
  - C. “**You need to** listen to the speaker. Remember, you came to church to learn.”
  - D. “**You need to** sit still a little longer. Let’s not bother the others.”
  - E. “**You need to** listen to instructions the first time so your teachers don’t have to repeat things to.”
  - F. “**You need to** be patient in line. If you start playing around, it gets the kids too hyper for worship. Take some deep breaths, relax!”
  - G. “**You need to** raise your hand before you speak. That’s one of our children’s rules.”
  - H. “**You need to** stop bothering the other kids. I expect you to work when you’re here.”
  - I. “**You need to** lower your voice a little. It’s too loud for indoors.”
  - J. “**You need to** stop talking so loud. It bothers the others.”
  - K. “**You need to** stop talking when the teacher is talking to the class.”
  - L. “John, it’s my turn to talk. **You need to** listen when I’m talking. When it’s your turn to talk, I’ll listen to you.”
  - M. “**You need to** sit down and listen.”
  - N. “**You need to** help the others cleanup.”

- O. “**You need to** stop playing around during prayer. That’s being very disrespectful to God.”
  - P. “**You need to** stop complaining. You can’t always have it your way.”
  - Q. “**You need to** stop going to the bathroom during the lesson. Go before class starts.”
  - R. “Class, quiet down! **You all need to** stop and listen. All eyes up here on me...right now!” (wait for the class to quiet down and give you their attention ...repeat the instructions if necessary).
  - S. “Boys and Girls, everyone sit down and pay attention. (repeat if necessary). **You all need to** lower your voices. We can’t bother the other classes.”
  - T. “Everyone, listen up! **You all need to** cleanup before we go home.”
- 3. A **directive** is often used in the younger age levels or for misbehaving newcomers who have not yet learned how to behave in church.
  - 4. Don’t be surprised that teachers do this all day long, especially in the beginning of the church year. **Directives** serve to shape and redirect behavior.
  - 5. Younger children (preschool and lower elementary) are often forgetful. They may have to be directed often. Be more tolerant with younger kids.
  - 6. Teachers who are in the habit of giving **directives** all day long are **teaching** students behavior. Teachers who do not give directives are merely teaching content.
  - 7. Whenever possible, give the **directive** to the child by standing directly in front of the child with eye-to-eye contact. Shouting across the room to speak to a child is a bad teaching habit.
  - 8. If the teacher is conducting the class, the other teachers and aides are to support the teacher by sitting with the kids and handling any discipline problems. But sometimes the teacher giving the lesson has no choice but to stop teaching and give the misbehaving child a **directive** even if it’s in front of the whole class.

## Changing Misbehavior with the “**5 to 1 Rule**”



Before asking a child to change a certain misbehavior, try sharing 5 things you positively appreciate about the child.