

Positive Discipline at All Souls UU Church

Be Clear and Direct With Your Expectations.

Kids need to hear what you are expecting of them. Not everything is a choice, and not everything is a question. Instead of: "can you please sit down?" instead say, "I need you to sit down now."

Generate a Class Covenant/Agreement and Review it Each Sunday

Create the covenant together

Keep it to six points or less

Phrase it positively: "Listen while others are talking" instead of "Don't talk when someone is talking."

Review the covenant each Sunday

Create an Entering In Ritual or Activity

If each child has something to do as soon as they enter the class, they will feel less anxious and more comfortable, and they will enter into the class in a peaceful manner.

-start each class with a coloring sheet

-start each class with an easy craft

-start each class with a decorating name tag activity

-start each class with the same game, like "duck, duck, goose"

Learn Children's Names

-help them wear nametags each Sunday

Focus on the Behavior You Want, and Not the Behavior You Don't Want

-"please walk" instead of "don't run"

-"Remember to share your toys" instead of "don't fight"

-"listen while others are talking" instead of "Stop talking"

Help Them Resolve Conflict

-If someone was breaking the Agreement and another child was affected, make sure they apologize and understand the value of staying in relationship

Time Out/Choice to Leave

-You may want to keep a special chair in a corner for a child to spend some time in "time out," which may just be taking some time to themselves, away from the group, to settle down.

-Kids do not have to stay if they are miserable. One of you can find me or call a parent out of the worship service. They can stay in the sanctuary with their parent, if that means they will have a better experience in church.