

imagine if

Behaviour Strategies for Young Children

Creating a calm and caring environment is imperative when working with young children. The structure and opportunities to explore will engage and encourage children to develop a sense of the world around them.

For some children, learning behaviours need to be taught and managed. Here are some ideas to support positive learning behaviours for young children:

1. Modelling Good Behaviour

- Children will often respond to a positive model and, therefore, using phrases such as, "Look at _____ sitting beautifully," can support this.
- Use a teddy or other toy to model appropriate behaviour to the class. You could model behaviour on the teddy, such as sitting still, crossing legs, or looking at the teacher. You could use a laminated flipbook to show this process and the Behaviour Management Flashcards.

2. Finding Space



- Some children find it difficult to sit or work in close proximity to others. These children often benefit from a different seating position in order to spread out. Having something to manipulate in their hands can sometimes help children to sit and listen more attentively. This can be as simple as a small piece of sticky tack or a squashy ball.
- Use a 'Learning Super Stars' board – Using these Children Display Posters, introduce the characters to the children, i.e. "This is Billy. He is a fantastic listener." Next to the picture of Billy, put a laminated list, ready to add children's names to. Explain that you are looking for good listeners just like Billy. Add names next to each character during the lesson, of children who are showing the same trait as the characters.

3. Classroom Management Strategies

- Use the tone of your voice to pique the children's interest. You could use a whisper or a silly voice to grab their attention.
- When sharing ideas, ask the children to 'whisper to the person next to them'. They will love passing their 'secret ideas' to another person and it also helps to keep the general volume at a minimum.
- Songs and rhymes often help to remind children of positive learning behaviours, especially during transition times such as lining up or sitting on the carpet. Use the 'Time To Get Ready' songs and rhymes included in this pack.
- 'Lovely listeners' magic dust' can work wonders to bring a lively group of children back to listening. You could also adapt this by waving a magic wand that gives instructions (a bit like the children's game 'Simon Says'), such as 'Everyone crosses their legs'.
- Clapping a rhythm for the children to copy and repeat back is a technique that not only builds listening skills, but also improves their musical ability.
- Confidence is key – believe in yourself!

