

Behaviour Expectations – Positive Acknowledgment

Summary

What is Positive Acknowledgment of Shared Expectations?

- As we encourage and empower children in their play, it is important to positively acknowledge children's actions when they follow directions or expectations. We want to provide positive feedback that encourages children to be self-motivated learners and citizens.

What's the Point?

- Supports and nurtures children's disposition of caring and promotes independence and self-advocacy in children
- When children are given specific and descriptive positive feedback they are encouraged to demonstrate shared expectations
- When children are acknowledged for participating in positive ways it honors their citizenship

How Do I Do This?

- Be authentic: "I noticed you cleaned up your dishes after snack. Thanks for remembering!"
- Acknowledge effort, "You got that first shoe on all by yourself today!"
- Be descriptive: "Thanks for putting the blocks in the basket" as opposed to "Great work over there!"
- Link positive specific feedback to the visual display of shared expectations in the room

How will the Children Participate in This Process?

- Engage children in conversations during large or small group to reflect on children's positive participation in shared expectations
- Children can be depicted in photos engaging in shared expectations (pictures of children helping clean the room, sharing toys, or helping each other)

Checklist

Task	Complete?
Educators actively observe and record children's behaviour and participation, looking for positive behaviours that demonstrate shared expectations	
Educators consider the values and vision of the childcare center and watch for examples of children representing those values	
Educators review visually displayed shared expectations with the children throughout the day to give positive verbal feedback linking it back to posted shared expectations	
Educators give positive acknowledgement throughout the day during all routines	
Educators are authentic in giving positive feedback, the focus is on encouragement rather than praise	
Educators acknowledge effort children make to follow shared expectations	
Educators keep wording simple and specific, "you are walking, that's safe"	
Educators embed positive feedback into daily activities, while reading a book you might say, "the characters in the story are helping each other, you also help each other here at daycare, that's being kind" (refer to the value)	

"Children grow in their understanding of their role as responsible citizens as they participate daily in communities where their voices are heard and their contributions valued, and where they learn to value the contributions of others"

Makovichuk, Hewes, Lirette & Thomas, 2014, p. 112

Flight: Alberta's early learning and care framework.

