

## Promoting Positive Behavior

Behavior is simply the way in which one acts or conducts oneself. At GiGi's Playhouse we focus on **Promoting Positive Behavior**. We react to challenging behaviors with compassion, kindness, and a desire to problem solve to find and teach more appropriate replacement behaviors.

**Here are some Tips to promote positive behavior:**

- **Offer structured choices**
  - Gives the participant some buy-in and some control.
  - Make sure any choice you provide is an acceptable option – “do you want the apple or the carrots?”
- **Visual cues are critical.**
  - Visuals provide tangible information that doesn't disappear like the spoken word.
  - Visuals promote understanding and independence.
  - We ALL use visuals!
- **Provide clear directions and instructions**
  - Be very clear about the expected behavior
  - Use visual supports, model it, and let the student practice the expected behaviors
  - Use short, simple sentences
  - Provide adequate wait time for the student to process the information or request, this could be as long as 8-10 seconds
  - Use positive language - “keep your feet on the floor”
  - Use first/then where “then” is the incentive
- **Praise, praise, praise!**
  - Look for positives!
  - Provide immediate feedback when the student accomplishes the desired behavior – no matter how small the accomplishment.
  - The reinforced behaviors are the behaviors that will be more likely to occur again!



Visit our Virtual Playhouse website for a full presentation on Promoting Positive Behavior!  
<https://gigisplayhouse.org/virtual/programs/family-speaker-series/>