



Giving Effective Feedback

- DESCRIBE the situation
- DESCRIBE the behavior
- STATE the effect

Staying Constructive

Effective feedback gives kids specific information about the good and bad things they do in a constructive, respectful way that helps them improve. They will exhibit even more good behavior if they understand clearly the cause and effect. It may seem obvious to adults, but often the connection is missing in their minds.

Keep it Clear

DESCRIBE the situation
DESCRIBE the behavior
STATE the effect

Put it into Action

Right Way	Wrong Way
When I checked out your room this morning, I saw that you brought all the trash and dishes to the kitchen. I realize I made the right decision to let you eat in your room.	Good job on your room!
At the playground, you grabbed the jump rope from Nellie. I could see she was mad and walked away. That left you without a friend to play with.	One day you're going to learn to share!
I noticed you put the car keys on the counter last night – I didn't have to look around for them this morning when I was in a hurry to get to my meeting. Thanks.	It's about time you put the keys where they're supposed to be!

Why it Works

The more attention kids get for the good things they do, the more they want to repeat the behavior. Pointing out what works and what doesn't gives kids important information they need to reinforce good habits and positive behavior. By using description, you focus on what needs to be done instead of focusing on blame and wrongdoing.

Don't Forget

Feedback is not just a different word for nagging! Nagging is negative, repetitive, ineffective. If you find yourself saying the same thing over and over without results – it's time to try another tack.