



TIPS FOR TEACHERS GIVING CHILDREN RESPONSIBILITIES

Teachers who offer opportunities for children to have responsibilities in the classroom increase children's motivation and desire to learn. Some ways teachers give children responsibilities include:

- Providing meaningful roles for children during classroom activities.
- Letting children lead and make decisions when appropriate.
- Encouraging children to help one another.

Below are some suggested strategies and examples of what this looks like in action. There are other ways to provide children with responsibilities. Please note that in some cases, the "What it is not" may be appropriate in other circumstances, according to the various needs of the classroom.

Provide Meaningful Roles

What this looks like in action:	What it is not:
During snack time the teacher goes over to several tables and asks the children what jobs they would like. Teacher: Who would like to hand out the forks at the red table this morning? Peter: <i>(Raises his hand.)</i> Teacher: Great Peter, thank you. Who will be in charge of giving out napkins? Lilly: Me! Teacher: Thanks Lilly! Who can help give out the cups? Max: I can! Teacher: Perfect, Max can hand out the cups.	During snack time the teacher sets up the tables so that each child's place mat is complete with utensils, cups, napkins, etc.

Let Children Lead

What this looks like in action:	What it is not:
While transitioning from whole group to outdoor time, the teacher allows a child to "be the teacher" and call her peers to line up. Teacher: Today Tonya will be calling on friends to line up for outdoor time. Tonya, how would you like to call on your friends? Tonya: If your name starts with a "B" please line up. Teacher: Great, Brian and Bella got up quickly and lined up nicely... Tonya: <i>(Continues to call up children according to their first initial and teacher facilitates as needed).</i>	While transitioning from whole group to outdoor time, the teacher quickly calls on children to line up.

Encourage Children to Help Each Other

What this looks like in action:	What it is not:
During a whole group activity where children are dancing and moving around the classroom, the teacher sees Marcus struggle to zip down his sweatshirt. She sees that Sophia is next to Marcus and encourages her to help, saying, "Sophia, I think our friend Marcus needs a little help with his jacket." Sophia goes over to Marcus and helps him with his zipper.	During a whole group activity where children are dancing and moving around the classroom, the teacher sees Marcus struggle to zip down his sweatshirt. The teacher asks her Teacher Assistant to help him out.



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