

15 TIPS FOR 'NO HORSING ABOUT'

	What is happening now?	What can be implemented/improved THIS WEEK?
<p>ENJOY YOUR TIME WITH THE KIDS</p> <p>Friendly faces go a long way in influencing kids cooperation and willingness to participate.</p>		
<p>KNOW AND USE THEIR NAMES</p> <p>Get to know the kids, welcome them by name, show them you're glad they'</p>		
<p>HAVE SOMETHING TO DO</p> <p>Make sure the kids have something (or several options) to do when they arrive. Without organised activities they'll create their own chaos.</p>		
<p>BE ORGANISED</p> <p>Make sure the space is safe, organised and labelled. This helps parents AND kids. eg, where do drink bottles/hats/bags go?</p>		

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<p>HAVE A PREDICTABLE ROUTINE</p> <p>Children thrive on predictability. It's important that kids know what to expect each and every time. This could be a written routine for older kids, or pictures like the ACTIVITY CARDS. Kids are more settled when they know the current task, and the next task.</p>		
<p>SET CLEAR EXPECTATIONS</p> <p>Insist all people are treated with KINDNESS and RESPECT. Talk explicitly about what these might look like. Refer back to these values when they are not being displayed.</p>		
<p>PRAISE THE RIGHT BEHAVIOUR</p> <p>It shows the kids you are watching, that the right behaviour gets attention and reinforces the expectations you have for them.</p>		
<p>GIVE CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS</p> <p>Kids need explicit instructions in order to follow them. eg, "When the toys are packed away, sit on the mat facing the chair for [insert next activity]"</p>		

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<p>MANAGE TRANSITIONS WELL</p> <p>Try a few visual or non-verbal signals and see which ones work best at gaining attention. Make transitions orderly by staging movement for large groups. eg “Anyone wearing yellow can go to the craft table. [Wait] Now anyone wearing socks...” Again, give clear instructions.</p> <p>Try a game of SIMON SAYS to transition to the next activity.</p>		
<p>KNOW WHEN TO STOP</p> <p>Plan activities that fit their attention span.</p> <p>Plan to end an activity before it gets boring. Their last memory of an activity is the enduring memory.</p>		
<p>INVOLVE THE KIDS</p> <p>They love having responsibility like carrying the food, going at the front of the line, turning off the lights, etc.</p> <p>Share the responsibilities around.</p>		

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<p>NIP IT IN THE BUD</p> <p>When you see behaviour that is neither kind nor respectful, nip it in the bud before it escalates.</p> <p>Always be fair and consistent. Don't make exceptions for 'good' kids.</p> <p>Insist on compliance.</p>		
<p>YOU'RE THE LEADER – LEAD</p> <p>You make the decisions. Be decisive and back your co-leaders.</p> <p>Remember to always be kind and respectful (they apply to you too), but be firm and stick to your decision.</p>		
<p>PREPARE WELL</p> <p>Make sure you have all you need for each activity. Kids waiting for you to find/retrieve something will get up to mischief.</p>		
<p>APOLOGISE</p> <p>If you need to, apologise. You are not perfect. When kids see you modelling repentance and soft-heartedness they will respond in kind.</p>		