

Be Positive

Why use positive language?

- It promotes a positive emotional environment, as it models and develops positive communication and social skills.
- Tells the child what we want rather than what we don't
- When we say what not to do that is often all the child hears
- Understanding of negative language develops later so child may not understand they are being told not to do something e.g. "don't run" becomes "run"

Make these statements positive without changing the message:

Don't run!

"walk" "Walking inside" "walking feet" "Stop, walking inside"

Stop jumping around on the sofa!

Stop talking!

You aren't helping me tidy up, Ellie.

Don't throw the sand on the floor.

Don't snatch!

Stop banging your cup on the table, Daniel.