

May 1, 2024



# St. Patrick's Preschool

## May 2024 News

### **Words Matter**

When interacting with young children words matter. Sarcasm and over explaining usually go right over a young child's head, leading to confusion or misunderstanding. The younger the child the fewer words needed, but the words you choose matter.

Children's understanding of spoken language quadruples between age two and three. Keep this in mind when you are telling your two-year-old the importance of walking in the store - "Don't run because you might get lost if you get too far ahead of me, and there are people around that you will bump into." Instead simply say, "Walking feet." Then take their hand and walk with them.

With three and four-year-olds you can certainly explain in simple terms the reason behind your words, "Walk please, we walk in the store so every one stays safe."

Try stating your directives in the positive, telling your child what you want, instead of what not to do:

'Walking feet.' Instead of 'Don't Run!'

'Use your inside voice.' Instead of 'Don't yell!'

'Hands on your own body.' Instead of 'Don't touch!'

'Gentle touches please.' Instead of 'Don't hit/push!'

It will take some practice, but your child will know exactly what you want them to do.

Yes, it's true that even though your child knows what you want them to do they might not choose to cooperate. Getting your child to do what you want sometimes requires creativity. Much like adults, children want autonomy and independence. Giving your child two choices will sometimes help, but you must be happy with either choice. If they refuse to choose, or pick their own third option, state the two choices again and say, "You can choose, or I will choose for you."

An example might be, “Walking feet, you can walk by yourself, or hold my hand.” Your child is going to walk, but they get to choose how. If they run ahead again simply say, “I will hold your hand to remind you to use your walking feet.”

A screaming tantrum might be the result, but if you follow through (and ignore the hostile looks from fellow shoppers), your child will be less likely to ignore your request next time. If they won't settle down it might be time to calmly leave the store and plan to come back another time. “I'm sad we didn't get to finish shopping, but we can try again tomorrow.”

Other helpful words/phrases to have in your parenting tool box include:

- **When - then** (When you clean up your toys, then we can have a popsicle. When you brush your teeth then we will read a story.)
- **I see you are frustrated, let's walk away and try again later.**
- **It was a rough day, but tomorrow will be better.**

Here is a great article with more helpful ideas:

<https://www.parents.com/parenting/better-parenting/positive/what-to-say-to-kids/>

## Upcoming Events:

- May 10th - A Moment With Mom - Moms please join your child in their classrooms at 11:30 for a Mother's Day Treat.
- May 17th - Traveling Day - Children will rotate through different classrooms to see where they are headed, and visit where they came from!
- May 23th - **Last day of spring session- NO LUNCH BUNCH**
- May 23th - **10:30 Graduation Ceremony** for rising Kindergarteners in the sanctuary.
- June 3rd - First day of Summer Camp Session 1.

We have opened another classroom for camp and have a few spots open. If you are interested you can register here:

[https://schools.mybrightwheel.com/sign-in?redirect\\_path=forms/8a014f3c-d817-495f-83d6-fddeer18fc918/self-service](https://schools.mybrightwheel.com/sign-in?redirect_path=forms/8a014f3c-d817-495f-83d6-fddeer18fc918/self-service)

## Registration For Fall 2024

We are accepting registration with limited available spots for fall 2024.

Please help us spread the word. Encourage friends to visit our website for more information:

[stpatrickspreschoolmooreville.org](http://stpatrickspreschoolmooreville.org)

