



# TIPS FOR FAMILIES

## STATING BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

# Your child's *best* behavior

How does your child know, or remember, that you want him to pick up his toys before bedtime, or that he should tell Grandma "Thank you" when she gives him a treat? You can tell (and show) your child ahead of time what is expected.



Teaching positive behavior	A grocery store example
<p>What behavior do you want to see?</p> <p>How will you help your child behave differently?</p> <p>Why?</p>	<p>I want Zack to stay by me and walk. Right now, he runs in the grocery store and pulls things off the shelf.</p> <p>I will ask him to look at the grocery list with me and help put things in the cart.</p> <p>Shopping can be more fun for both of us. He will learn new words, move safely in the store, and help our family.</p>
<p>How will you tell your child what you expect?</p>	<p><i>"When we go inside the grocery store, please stay next to me, or the cart, and w-a-l-k. Let's look at our grocery list. Would you like to help me find the food on our list?"</i></p>
<p>How will you encourage your child when he tries to follow the rules, even for a short time?</p>	<p><i>"Thank you for getting the cereal. That was a big help! I saw that you stayed close to me in the cereal aisle."</i></p>

Many things can affect your child's behavior: the time of day, his mood, whether he is tired or hungry. When you consider these, you can set realistic goals. Learning how to interact well with others is important for your child's success in school.