

BEHAVIOUR CUE CARDS



Behaviour cue cards can be used to reinforce verbal directions and/or to quickly and quietly redirect a pupil.

They should not be used to reprimand; they are reminders of the positive behaviours the child can practice.

Ensure that the child can see the cue card clearly.

Before introducing a card, think about if the pupil understands and has the desired skill you are trying to reinforce. A child must understand that they should sit on the carpet at carpet time before a visual reminder will help them to remember to do it.

Also, be mindful that the desired action or behaviour may look different to each child and each teacher. For example, sitting on the carpet quietly may be very different to the student than it is to the TA.

Acceptable variations of a behaviour should always be based on the child's abilities and needs rather than adults' expectations.

Remember to use praise and encouragement frequently. This could be a high 5, a thumbs up or a well-done cue card, whichever is most appropriate for the activity.

If unwanted behaviours occur and the visual reminders are ineffective, staff may wish to use the distract, ignore, redirect, praise behaviour technique.

Distract the child from the behaviour they are engaging in and ignore the behaviour; do not mention it. Redirect the child to do something more appropriate and give lots of praise when the redirection is accepted.

An example would be a child refusing to line up at playtime to go back in the classroom and running off instead.

Staff would distract by asking child to come and look at something interesting, like a plane going over head, ignoring that they have run away from the class line. When child comes to look at the plane, redirect them by asking them to do a job such as take the ball or other equipment back inside. Still do not mention the running away and praise the child for helping with a job instead.

At the next play time, pre-empt the behaviour by asking the child to come over and assist with a similar job and lead the line in. Use lots of praise as reward.

We would not advise using any type of card with a sad face or a "No hitting" etc message. Just use positive reminders once the child understands the behaviour you are requesting.

