

## - LOVE BUT LIMIT -

### SOME BASIC POINTS TO REMEMBER WHEN WORKING AND LIVING WITH CHILDREN

1. **PLAY IS THE BUSINESS OF CHILDREN.** We create a setting for children to have rich play experiences and give them a good day which is a learning day.
2. **BE POSITIVE.** Tell the child what to do, not what not to do.
3. **LAUGH WITH A CHILD.** Never laugh at him.
4. **GIVE THEM TIME.** Don't hurry them.
5. **GET DOWN ON THEIR LEVEL.** This means to really kneel down to talk to them at times.
6. **ANSWER QUESTIONS.** Simple and honest.
7. **BE INTERESTED.** In what children are doing and saying and actually do things with them.
8. **WHEN A CHILD SHOWS YOU SOMETHING THAT HE HAS MADE, BE INTERESTED.** Say: "Tell me about it." or "Does this picture have a story?" Do not say: "What is this?"
9. **IF YOU GIVE A CHILD A CHOICE BE SURE YOU REALLY WANT HIM TO CHOOSE.** Example: "Do you want cake or fruit for dessert?" If he chooses cake, give it to him. If you want him to have fruit for dessert and feel he must have fruit for dessert, don't give him a choice.  
  
Say: "Here is your dessert," and give him fruit. How many times have you heard parents say when it is bedtime, "Do you want to go to bed?" Of course the child says no. If it is bedtime why ask?
10. **SPEAK ONLY WHEN NECESSARY,** but follow through when you speak.
11. **BE COURTEOUS WITH A CHILD.** It is the best way to teach him courtesy. Example: We never talk about a child in his presence. Manners and good living habits are caught, not taught.
12. **ALLOW THEM TO BE INDEPENDENT** and do for themselves.

### THE 4 F's FOR BEHAVIOR

### FONDNESS -- FAITH -- FAIRNESS -- FIRMNESS

The child's home and family are the most important influences on his life. Manners, good living habits, morals, interest, and language are actively practiced, not passively instituted.

*Shared by Warren McPherson, Director of Athens Montessori School*