



CONSENT ABC'S:

RESPONSIBILITY!

Children are going to make mistakes. So are we! It's important to know how to take responsibility and how to care for others so children can learn from their mistakes and not hide them.



Awareness

Children can struggle with making sense of how others feel. Asking them to think about how they feel when they're hurt helps develop empathy.

It's also great to reflect on how it feels to care for others: it's much easier to be responsible because it feels rewarding rather than just because you are told you should.

Boundaries

Modeling responsibility by acknowledging when we cross a boundary, and apologizing, makes admitting being wrong seem less scary. Responsible boundaries can be about how we treat other people, animals, and even the land we live on.



Choices

Being allowed to make choices and experience the consequences safely is a great way to learn how to make responsible decisions. It can be helpful to talk about what happened afterwards to help children connect their actions to the results.

Difficulties

Modeling responsibility through consistent rules and consequences helps teach our values.

It can be hard to admit to a child that we're unsure or that we made a mistake. While they look to us for structure, they're also learning from us how to handle being unsure and making mistakes.



Examples:

"We can show plants respect by not stopping their growth by picking them."

"I know it was an accident, but that doesn't change how much it hurt, and we should apologize."

"I'm sorry I spoke harshly. I'm frustrated, but it's not your fault."



Consent skills are important everyday tools! These resources can help build comfort with consent conversations for young children. Values around respect will vary between cultures and families, so use this information however it works for you.

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