

Punishment, very simply, is a "quick fix." It may be a "swat" (where permitted), a threat, or a hostile, verbal attack. Punishment often does not solve a problem and used in isolation, only stops the immediate behavior. Punishment requires little change in beliefs on the child's part and generally has no instructional value. It may indicate a loss of adult control or lack of patience. There is often no evaluation of its effectiveness. Punishment will not change behavior long term because the basic need causing the behavior has not been met. Punishment focuses on the action, not the cause. It generally results in a child's anger, disrespect, revenge, or defeat.



Discipline is an approach to changing behavior through planning, teaching, and evaluating. Effective discipline provides appropriate, logical consequences for behavior and results in long term and positive behavioral changes. True discipline does not focus on isolated behaviors, but is a learning process that provides the child with a variety of skills to be an effective learner. Discipline addresses the cause of the behavior and helps to create a safe, positive learning environment for all.

Discipline is firm, fair, and appropriate to the behavior. It takes commitment, planning, and ongoing problem solving. Discipline reflects the Classroom Management philosophy "to teach them, we must reach them."

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- Immediate response
- Stops a behavior
- Demeaning, humiliating, physically painful, or about exerting adult power/control/authority
- No long-term, positive effect



- Immediate or no response
- Stops or ignores the behavior
- Respects the importance of the relationship with the child
- Teaches or reinforces skills that have a longterm, positive effect