

Give Me Five

In Threads Kids' Community, we employ the “**Give Me Five**” technique of classroom management.

When you say, “Give me five,” **hold up your hand and count down from five**. The class should be quiet when you get to one. If this is done during a transition time, you can make it a race and see who can sit down and be quiet the fastest. If this is done because there is too much talking during your lesson, stop what you are doing and hold up your hand. Give them a chance to realize that you are no longer teaching and then in a normal tone of voice, count down.

The five things that we are expecting them to give us when we count down:

- ✓ **TWO** ears listening to me
- ✓ **TWO** eyes looking at me
- ✓ **ONE** mouth zipped and quiet

(If you have a group of chatterboxes, it may be a good idea to start the lesson by reminding them of the 5 things you expect them to give you.)

Discipline

Teachers and helpers in Kids' Community child must NEVER spank or hit a child. We also must go to great lengths to avoid grabbing or physically restraining a child.

Our role in the short time we have with children does not involve disciplining children in terms of punishment. If a child has been given three gentle reminders/warnings about their behavior and is still too disruptive to the class, the teacher or helper will then text the child's parent, and/or simply take the child upstairs to his/her parent.

Avoid time-outs or any other discipline methods (harsh voice, loud claps, etc.); it is highly stressful for children to be under the care of various teachers and helpers from week to week if the approach to discipline shifts constantly. Make the expectations clear (**give me 5**), remind children of the consequence (**return to parents**) and then be consistent and calm in employing these standards.

Threads Kids' Community

Child Interaction Policy

TOP 5

1. All volunteers must be screened and officially approved, with a background check on file. All subs and helpers must comply with this requirement. No unapproved spouses/teens/etc. helping in classes, please.
2. A two-adult presence must be maintained at all times (teen helpers “count,” but one member of the team must always be over 18 years old). Be alert to situations that could compromise this rule—getting something from the kitchen or the storage closet, for example—a child should not accompany a single adult/teen anywhere in the building (there are some acceptable exceptions to this rule, one of which is if one helper walks a child upstairs to their parent).
3. Children must be properly checked in and checked out. This is particularly vital for the nursery and the Orange group. Mark that the child has arrived on the checklist. As parents come to pick children up, use the Planning Center App to check them out, if possible. If this isn't working properly or you don't have the app, use the chart on the clipboard instead. Ask parents for their security sticker as part of the check-out process.
4. No adult/teen help in the bathroom. If a nursery- or preschool-aged child needs help in the bathroom, plan A is to get the parent to come help (or take the child upstairs to the parent), plan B is for 2 adults to help the child.
5. Teachers and helpers must be highly conscious of all physical contact with children. Avoid any touch/contact that could be used as “grooming” behavior by abusers—back rubs, lap-sitting, lengthy hugs, etc. High 5s and pats on the back are fine, but avoid leaving any room for possible accusation or misunderstanding.