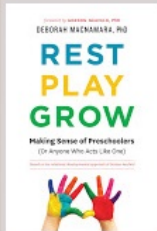


That preserves relationships Discipline

and protects development



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There is nothing like the force of an immature child to test the maturity level in their adults. When facing challenging behaviour from kids, how do we preserve our relationship even as we set limits, support boundaries, or steer through problems? The following three keys can be helpful to keep on mind when dealing with emotionally charged incidents.

Address issues when **OUTSIDE** the **INCIDENT**



You don't have to make headway in the incident for a child to learn. Instead of trying to control the child, take the lead in terms of the circumstances around them, (e.g. move other kids out of harms' way, get outside). Drop the 'infraction flag' and note what is not okay or you can't allow, remaining caring and revisiting the incident later when the storm has passed.

Address the incident when **EMOTIONS** are **LOW**



When emotions are running high such as foul frustration, alarm, or restless pursuit, it is better to discharge these through play, words, or movement. Once the child has had some room for emotional expression and the emotional intensity is reduced, you can come back around to discuss the incident, coming alongside their feelings and what was difficult for them.

Address incident when **CONNECTION** is **STRONG**



Collect and engage a child's attachment instincts before talking to them about what behaviour doesn't work. When you can feel the child wants to be good for you, wants to follow you, and wants to meet your expectations, convey what you would like them to do next time. Ask if you can count on them to try and that you will be there to help them.