



Positive Child Guidance

By Darla Ferris Miller



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Positive Child Guidance outlines practical, workable steps for creating a cooperative, respectful community of children and adults. Behavior modification is addressed, not as the foundation of child guidance, but as a single, carefully placed stone in a solid structure of active guidance. Maturation is addressed, not as an excuse to relinquish responsibility for child behavior, but as a powerful tool for understanding and responding appropriately to various stages of child behavior. The method presented is one of assertive and respectful enforcement of cooperatively developed rules and persistent protection of individual rights. Aggression, passivity and manipulation are identified as hindrances to positive child guidance, as they trigger negativity, even rebellion, in children. In this text, the role of the adult is that of one who seeks not to gain control over children but rather to guide them effectively while setting for them an immediate and tangible example of appropriate coping and assertive negotiation. In this child guidance model, the adult not only guards the safety and individual rights of children but also stimulates their development of inner control by creating a functioning democratic community of children and adults. The author portrays a lively, poignant, warm and very human look at the process of adults guiding, managing, and coping with children's behavior-and children trying to deal with their own emerging needs and feelings, as well as with persistent adult expectations. Positive Child Guidance is presented in a very readable format and is even funny at times. However, it is based on a solid theoretical foundation drawn from the empirical study of social and emotional development in infants, toddlers, and young children.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Darla Ferris Miller holds a doctorate in early childhood education, Texas and Mississippi teaching credentials, and the American Montessori Society Early Childhood, Infant, and Toddler Certification. She was a vice president, a division chair, and a professor at North Harris College. Dr. Miller has also served in a wide range of roles within the field of child care and development. She has been a caregiver, early childhood teacher, center director, teacher trainer, and consultant, and has worked with children from infancy to middle school.

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