



NOTE #4: P.B.I.S. EXPECTATION “BE SAFE”

At Prairie Children Preschool, we practice PBIS or Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports. Part of this is having “expectations” and our expectations are Be Ready, Be Safe and Be Respectful. We talk about these concepts as “action words” because you have to do something or demonstrate a behavior to achieve that expectation. By promoting the expectation, Be Safe, we are trying to create an environment where the children feel they are free from danger or injury because the behaviors we’re promoting for Be Safe are designed to prevent accidents.



What We Teach At School

At school, some ways we encourage the children to Be Safe are:

- Stay with the class in line when walking through the hallways or outside the building
- Keep our hands and our feet to ourselves
- Climb the playground equipment near teachers
- Go down the slide one child at a time with feet first

When we see them “being safe”, we let them know that we noticed by saying things like “I like the way you went down the slide with feet first. That was being safe.” We make sure to let the child know that their positive behavior was recognized in hopes that it will encourage the child to do it that way again.



What You Can Do At Home

At home, you can promote being safe with your family. It is important for children to feel safe across all their environments. Some ways you can encourage your children/family to be safe are:

- Staying with/near you at the grocery store
- Holding your hand when crossing the street
- Certain activities like using the stove are only for adults
- Wearing helmets when riding bicycles or scooters

You could make it a family activity to come up with a list of safety rules. Remember to recognize your child for their positive behaviors by telling them that you liked the way they were being safe. If you observe you child engaged in an unsafe activity, tell them to stop but remember to use the word safe when you are explaining why they need to stop. For example, “Johnny, I need you to stop climbing on the chair like that. It’s not safe.”

If both parents and teachers encourage safety, it might just become part of the children’s daily routine!