

# 4 Taking care of your Garden of Children's Ministry



## a. Sun in your garden: Preventing problems!

Teach the rules. Have some fun acting out a scene where somebody breaks the rule, even in a small way, and another scene where a child follows the rule. Be sure to teach the exact difference and what is expected by the rule. For example, “do not use your hands to do something bad” can be broken by pushing a child down to the ground or trying to take a crayon that the child is currently using. There will be times the class holds hands to pray, although this is not “keeping hands in place” is not breaking any rule.



## b. Water your garden: Showing love to the children!

Why do children break the rules? Sometimes a child will need more attention than they are getting so they will break a rule just to get that attention. Don't let the student become so desperate for attention that they are willing to break the rules to get it. Make sure the student gets better attention as your “helper” than for causing problems and the situation will only happen once or twice and it won't come up again. Ask yourself, “What does he/ she need that isn't getting met?” The teacher needs to discover what it is and provide it in a better way.



## c. Weed your garden: Maintaining discipline!

The consequences steps. After the rules are explained and understood, the steps of consequences when a rule is broken should be explained to the children. They don't like surprises that hurt them. The teacher should be very consistent in taking these steps of consequences unless the problem is extremely dangerous and it calls for immediate removal of a student. First is a signal or warning, next is a move between quieter students, next is moving to the time out chair, next is being taken out of class, and last is going to parents. As the rules are reviewed at the start of each class time, the consequences are also reviewed.