

This book uses simple, repetitive text and photographs of real children to highlight positive ways to use our hands.

CORE SKILL OBJECTIVES

INTENTIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES

REGULATE



Children will:

- ◆ Manage and adjust actions and behaviors with the guidance of familiar adults

Teachers will:

- ◆ Acknowledge positive behaviors

TEACHING TIP

As young children try out their new and emerging skills, they sometimes push boundaries or forget what they are expected to do. Adults can help children develop their capacity for managing behaviors by helping them learn positive and acceptable ways to express themselves. Children are more likely to show positive behavior when they are actively engaged in an activity and understand what they're *supposed to be doing*. When you read with young children, share books that encourage them to be active and set fair and *reasonable* expectations for how children should listen and participate. Then acknowledge children's positive behaviors to reinforce them.

1. INTRODUCE

- ◆ "Can you show me your hands? What can your hands do? We are going to read this book called *Hands Can* and see some more things our hands can do."

2. READ THE BOOK

- ◆ Pause occasionally to draw attention to the kind and helpful ways the children use their hands.

Acknowledge Positive Behaviors



Read: "Hands can wave to say, 'hello.'"

Acknowledge: "They are using their hands to wave, 'hello.' Can you wave to me or a friend? Waving is a friendly, safe way to say hello!"

Read: "Hands can hold things."

Acknowledge: "They are using their hands to gently hold the animal. Can you show me how you would hold something gently? Using gentle hands is helpful and kind."

Read: "Hands can do all kinds of things."

Acknowledge: "Look at all the kind and helpful ways they are using their hands!"

Ask: "How else can we use our hands to be kind and helpful?"

3. REVIEW

- ◆ "Hands can be kind, helpful, and useful! What do you think your hands will do today?"

4. KEEP IT GOING

- ◆ Proactively teaching positive behaviors can help draw attention to what you want children to do. Focus on describing what the positive behavior looks like in different areas of the room. Use cues and visuals to remind children of positive behaviors in the moment. When you see a child engaging in the positive behavior, be sure to acknowledge and describe the behavior, rather than just saying, "good job!". Your specific feedback helps children know to keep showing that behavior.