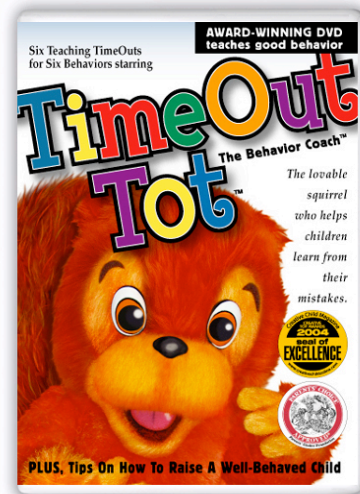


Multimedia
R E V I E W
February 2005

TimeOut Tot, Vol. 1 68 min. DVD
\$19.99

Preschool Children and Adults– This excellent program, focusing on common childhood misbehaviors, is the answer to prayers of parents and caregivers everywhere. Each “TimeOut” segment is designed to be used with a child who has just engaged in the specific misbehavior (biting, cutting in line, pushing, grabbing, whining, or throwing a tantrum), and Tot, a plush squirrel puppet, provides a pleasant, reasonable voice when parents can’t calmly address an issue. Each six- to seven-minute segment opens with Tot’s theme song, which tells children that they are good and have only “goofed.” Tot then acknowledges the child’s feelings and identifies the misbehavior and why it was wrong. Through live-action segments featuring real children, viewers see the consequences of their actions. Tot then sings a catchy “teaching tune” that identifies positive alternatives to the misbehavior, such as asking permission to borrow a toy instead of grabbing. Lastly, Tot encourages youngsters to apologize for their misbehavior and reassures them that they are good kids who are still learning. Tot speaks directly to kids, acknowledging their feelings and experiences without ever talking down to them, and the bad behavior is always separated from the child. “Teaching timeout” segments with the creator, Ann Brazil, guide parents through effective ways to deal unemotionally with each of the misbehaviors covered in the timeout segments. This thoroughly unique resource belongs on every parenting resource shelf.

–Kathleen Kelly MacMillan,
Maryland School for the Deaf, Columbia



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