

- ♥ PLEASE DON'T WALK SO FAST – my legs are short and I can't keep up with you. Besides there are things I need to stop and see along the way!
- ♥ MY ATTENTION SPAN IS SHORT – lots of things last too long – like shopping, visiting and sometimes even games you play with me!
- ♥ WHEN I'M FRIGHTENED – of a big dog or something, please pick me up and hold me; that helps more than telling me you won't let anything hurt me!
- ♥ SOMETIMES IT WOULD BE NICE – if you would talk to me and explain why we have to do things, or explain what is going to happen – then I'll know what to do!
- ♥ BIG PEOPLE GET IN SUCH A HURRY – don't tell me 6 things at once. I get confused when people say: “This afternoon we're going to grandma's; get your coat; finish your lunch; what shoes do you have on?” Please give me one instruction at a time.
- ♥ PLEASE MAKE SURE I UNDERSTAND – what you want me to do before you get mad at me for not doing something you expected me to do.
- ♥ GIVE ME TIME TO DO THINGS FOR MYSELF. I know I'm slow. I haven't learned how to put on my clothes yet, much less do it fast. What's all the hurry about anyway?
- ♥ I HAVE TROUBLE – sitting still in the car even when you keep telling me to because it's not very interesting to look at the back seat of that dashboard thing.
- ♥ SOMETIMES MY NECK HURTS TRYING TO SEE – what's on the dining room table – or looking at big people's faces. Please put me on a chair or bend down.
- ♥ I'M NOT STUPID – I'm just small and don't know lots of things yet.
- ♥ I KNOW I MAY NOT ALWAYS SAY THE RIGHT THING. Please remember I'm still a person. When you tell secrets or private things to other big people, how should I know not to repeat them?
- ♥ I KNOW I LOSE ARGUMENTS – but it is fun sometimes to get you riled up – and I know I can sharpen my wits that way. Why do you let yourself get upset? You should know better!

Adopted from Ruby Harris, Specialist in Family Relations and Leadership Training, University of California

How To Stop Child Abuse in A Public Place

It can be very uncomfortable to watch the mistreatment of a child by an adult whose behavior is out of control.

Fortunately, there are things you can do to help....

- **Divert the adult's attention.** Start a conversation with the adult. Offer sympathy. For example, you could say, "Shopping with children can really try your patience, can't it?"
- **Talk to the child.**
If the child is acting out or misbehaving, start a friendly conversation to distract him or her.
- **Praise the adult or child.**
Find something positive to say about the child or the adult. For example, "That's a cute outfit your child is wearing. That color looks nice."
- **Offer to help.** Ask the adult if there is some way you can help.
- **Avoid negative looks or comments.**
This may only increase the adult's anger, making things worse for the child.
- **Call Police or 911 if you feel the child is in danger.**

