

TIP # 9 Advice to Parents from Pre-Schoolers

- ♥ 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 – they try to tell me 6 things all at once. I get confused when people say: “This afternoon we're going to grandmother's; get your coat; finish your lunch; what shoes do you have on.”
- ♥ 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 'cause it's not very interesting to look at the back seat or that dashboard thing.
- ♥ I'M TOO LITTLE – to see what's outside and 'sit-down' like you want me to.
- ♥ 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.
- ♥ WHY DO YOU EXPECT ME TO LIKE THEM OR NOT BE AFRAID – when you or Daddy won't eat certain foods, talk about being afraid of the water, and dentists, hospitals and doctors.
- ♥ 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!

How to Stop Child Abuse In a Public Place

It can be very uncomfortable to watch the mistreatment of a child by an adult out of control. Fortunately, there are things you can do to help...

- Strike up a conversation with the adult to direct attention away from the child. Say something like:
“She seems to be trying your patience.”
“My child has gotten upset like that, too.”
“He has beautiful (eyes)” to get the parent in a positive mood.”
“Children can wear you out can’t they? Is there anything I can do to help?”
- Divert the child’s attention (if misbehaving) by talking to the child.
- Praise the child and parent at the first opportunity.
- If the child is in danger, offer assistance. For example, if the child is left unattended in a grocery cart, stand by the child until the parent returns.
- Avoid negative remarks or looks. These reactions are likely to increase the parent’s anger and could make matters worse.

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