

THE CHILDREN'S WAY
LANGUAGE TEACHERS USE IN THE CLASSROOM

"You get what you get and you don't get upset!"

"This is not a choice"

"Some things are a choice, but this is not a choice"

"This is a teacher (mom, dad, etc.) choice"

"You may choose _____ or _____." (limit to two choices)

I can see that it makes you (upset, angry etc.) but this is not a choice; if you cannot I will help you"

"That is not o.k. At The Children's Way (in our family, at our house, etc.) we do not (e.g. hit our friends, throw food, etc.)."

"It is not safe to (e.g. stand on the table). It's the teacher's (mom's, dad's, etc.) job to keep you safe. You may (e.g. come down) by yourself or I will have to help you."

"I can see that you're very (upset, angry etc.) but I cannot let you (e.g. hit your friend, scratch a teacher, etc.) , it's my job to keep everyone in the classroom (in our family, who visits our house, friends who come to play, etc.) safe." "We need to find out if he/she is o.k. Please ask... 'are you o.k.?' " (child then will help get ice, bandaids, etc., if needed)

"I can tell that you're feeling (name emotion) because you're (crying, shouting, etc). What do you think we should do?"

"Let's make a plan..."

"_____ is playing with that now, what words can you use with him?" If child can't find words, then model for him/her: "When you're done with car, can I have a turn?"

"First (requested/required task/activity, etc.) then (preferred task/activity, etc.)"

"It's your job to (e.g. hang up your coat, clear your place at snack, etc).

"Remember your helper job!"

"Chores!" (one-word reminder)

"Did you forget?" or "Oh, you must have forgotten to ..." (e.g. flush the toilet; instead of "you need to flush the toilet")

"I need you to..." (instead of "you need to...")

"Oh, you don't care for that?" (response to a child saying "I hate that")

“You can (e.g. put the game back on the shelf) by yourself or, I can help you do it”

“It looks like you're having a hard time (e.g. sharing the cars) what could you do so that everyone has a (car) to play with?” if child can't come up with an idea...” **Maybe I can help you solve this problem...** (e.g. You can play with the blue car, Meg can play with the red car and Tom can play with the green car. Now all our friends have a car to play with.) If child resists/refuses... **“At school (our house, the playground, etc.) all friends can play (we share our toys, etc.) would you like to give a car to each friend or do you want me to help you?”**

“At The Children's Way the rule is” A child may say something like, “I'm allowed to do this at my house etc”, the response would be **“The rules at school and the rules at home are sometimes different, this is the rule we follow at school”**

“I've asked you several times to (e.g. keep your hands on your own body, not throw the blocks, etc.). You haven't been able to do that. It looks like you need some time to yourself to help quiet your body,” (take child out of the situation to other location, on the other side of the room, etc.) **When you think you're ready to come back and (e.g. play safely, respect your friends' bodies, etc.), let me know and you can rejoin your friends.”**

“You must have forgotten our rule! I know that you know that we (e.g. walk in the hall, wait at the stop sign, etc.) I know you'll remember next time!”

“You can tell me...” (what the rule is; what is expected; what you need to do next)

“You need to stop!” or one word “Stop!” (make all-done sign with hands; maintain good eye contact; once behavior has stopped then restate expectation).

“I see you really love to (e.g. bang the block on the table), it's very loud, let's see where else you can bang it..... let's try it on ...”

“I want to help you but I can't when you're (screaming, crying etc.) Let me know when you're done (screaming, crying, etc.) and then I'll be happy to help you.”

“I like the way you just (shared the blocks, etc.) with your friend.” **Comment on positive**

“Let's see if we can all (tip toe, walk like mice, etc) to the stairs.” Eases transitions

“I hear that you really want to..... Let's make a plan - tell me, what do you need to do first before you can.....?”

“I don't see any blocks put away, let's see if I can help get you started.” Or **“ ... put 4 blocks away and then I'll help you with the rest”**; **“Let's see if you can get the blocks away before I count to 10”**; **“Let's do it together – my job will be to hand the blocks to you & your job will be to put them on the shelf, we can pretend we're loading machines”**; etc.

“Potty talk is for the bathroom, you'll have to go into the bathroom if you want to use that language”.