

TOUGH KIDS TOOL BOX

FOR PARENTS

PRC Resources

[Tough Kids Tool Box](#)

By William Jenson, Ginger Rhode, H. Kenton Reavis

[1-2-3 Magic](#)

[\(Book, audio CD, DVD & Video\) Also available in Spanish](#)

Thomas W. Phelan

[1-2-3 Magic for Kids](#)

Thomas W. Phelan, Tracy M. Lewis

[Behavioral Complications](#)

Mel Levine (DVD)

[Children with Learning and Behavior Problems ~ A Behavior](#)

[Management Approach](#)

William Gardner

[Management of Autistic Behavior](#)

Richard Simpson

Behavior Management Techniques

[Use a Clear Directive, Not a Question](#)

Do not use such statements as "Would you stop teasing?" Instead make the request a polite command, such as, "Please hang up your coat."

[Shorten the Distance](#)

Move close to your child. The optimal distance for giving a command is approximately 3 feet.

[Use a Soft, but Firm Voice](#)

When giving a command, give it in a quiet voice, up close, with eye contact.

[Make Eye Contact](#)

Look directly at your child as you give an instruction. Say your child's name. When your eyes meet, contact has been made, and the chance for compliance increases.

[Time: Wait 5 Seconds](#)

Allow your child a bit of time to comply after making a request. Just wait. Do not talk with the child, do not argue or respond to excuses.

[Only Twice](#)

Tell your child what you require only 2 times. Force yourself to simply wait 5 to 10 seconds between each request. Avoid interrupting the child with further instructions.

[Demand the Possible](#)

Be certain the request is something your child is able to accomplish. You may want to divide a large job into "baby steps." Plan for success!

[Give Descriptive Directions](#)

Some directions are confusing to your child. Your child may truly not understand your expectations when you say "Clean your room."

[Remain Calm](#)

An emotional response from the parent will actually reduce compliance. Exercise self-control. Remember to "breathe easy."

[Say "Start" Instead of "Stop"](#)

Tell your child to start an appropriate behavior such as "Please start picking up the blocks." Make fewer stop demands such as, "Don't argue with me!"

[Reinforce Compliance](#)

Recognize your child's efforts! It is too easy to request a behavior from a child, and then ignore the positive result. If you want more cooperation, then praise your child often.