

Words to use with children

INSTEAD OF THIS

“Will you stop screaming? You’re giving me a headache.”

“How many times do I have to tell you to stop hitting?”

“Get down now or you’ll fall.”

“You can’t go outside until this room is clean.”

“Sit down right now!”

“I said no! Do you hear me?”

“Put that stick down before someone gets their eye poked out!”

“Did you dump the puzzle on the floor again? I told you not to do that.”

“See, I told you that you would fall and hurt yourself!”

“Stop crying. You’re fine.”

“Don’t act like a baby.”

“Quit running. This isn’t a freeway.”

“You’re not a dog. No biting!”

“You had another accident? You should know better.”

SAY OR DO THIS

“Use quiet voices. Save your loud voices for outside.”

“You’re angry, but hitting hurts. Let’s talk about what’s bothering you.”

“Feet on the floor, please.”

“We need to take care of our toys. Let’s work together to clean up.”

“I need you to put your bottom on the floor like me please.”

“I can see you are having a hard time listening. I will help you.”

“Throw that stick over the fence so no one will get hurt.”

“Keep the puzzle on the table so the pieces don’t get lost.”

“I see you fell off the bike. Can I help you wash your scratch?”

“I know you’re feeling sad. Let’s talk about what happened.”

“I see you’re upset. How can I help?”

“Walking feet please.”

“I can’t let you bite your friend. Biting hurts!”

“I see you had an accident. Let’s get you changed.”