



Positive Directions

**State what you want, not what you don't.
Especially for kids under 4.**

It's always best to state commands in the positive, but extremely important for kids under 4.

They do not have the language skills to decipher negative commands.

You say, "Don't jump on the couch."

They only understand, "Jump on the couch."

Stay away from:

Don't
Stop
No

Examples

Instead of:

"Stop jumping on the couch!"

"No grabbing!"

"Don't sit on the ground! It's dirty!"

Say:

"You can jump on the floor." OR
"Couches are for sitting."

"Use gentle hands, please!"

"Ask for a turn, please!"

"Wait for a turn, please!"

"Your turn is next!"

"Stand up, please!"

"Let's stand up."

"It's time to stand up."



Time to Practice

Name 2-3 common issues for your toddler (climbing on the table, throwing a toy, etc) and give 2-3 ways you can correct your child using positive language (telling her what TO do).

Issue 1: _____

Positive Statements: _____

Issue 2: _____

Positive Statements: _____

Issue 3: _____

Positive Statements: _____

