



Teaching Children to Listen and Follow Instructions



For the Parent

STEP 1



Get Close to the Child

Get next to the child before speaking and make eye contact.

For the Child

Come When Called

Teach children to come when they hear their name called. This is an important skill they will use their entire lives.



STEP 2



Consider the Timing

If the child is involved in activities that are constructive, be mindful of interrupting at that very moment.

Be Ready to Receive Instructions

Children need to understand that one of their job descriptions is to receive instructions. This is a life skill.



STEP 3



Give Instructions Clearly

Make a clear and short statement, such as: Son, you need to clean your room now.

Give an Answer Back

The child needs to respond using the following words: OK Mom/ OK Dad, or Yes Mom / Yes Dad.



STEP 4



Wait Expectantly

The parent needs to remind the child to stay on task by giving pointers that will develop into a sense of obligation.

Do the Job as if on a Mission

The child stays on task and completes the job, in this way develops responsibility.



STEP 5



Inspect and Release

Parents check the work to see if it is up to their expectations, teach in areas that need improvement and release the child when all is done.

Report Back

The child comes back to report when the task is done. This is a strategic step in the Instruction Routine because it releases the child and frees the conscience.

