

Young children are developing their understanding of the world. Using the same phrases consistently will help your child progress on their path of becoming self-disciplined and effective communicators. Below are some common phrases we use at Small World. When speaking to a young child it is important to remember to get low, speak in a calm and quiet tone, and keep it brief.



**Your child is not following the direction given**

1

"The direction is to \_\_\_\_\_."

If your child does not listen. Give a choice, "The direction is to \_\_\_\_\_ or you can sit down until you are ready."

**Always follow through with what you have said.**

**If your child still does not listen, begins to have a tantrum, or runs away.**

2

"It is my job to keep you safe, (hold your child) I will put you down when you are calm."

Once sitting calm "the direction is \_\_\_\_\_"

**Your child is using a disrespectful tone or language**

3

"No thank you, we use kind words/voices in our family"

When needed model or give respectful language to the child.

Do not assume that they mean to be ill mannered. "When I want the milk, I say - Please pass me the milk"

**Your child hits someone**

4

"Our hands are for helping/working"  
"Hitting hurts"

Attend to hurt child first.

Role model empathy and care for hurt person.

Do not force an apology.

Get at eye level and say, "What can we do to help \_\_\_ feel better?" and/or "If someone takes my truck, I would say "I was using that truck, I would say, please give it back."

Ask or review what would be better choices when feeling mad, sad, or angry depending on the age of the child

**Your child interrupts inappropriately**

5

Put up one finger to your child to have them pause.

Explain that it is good manners to wait until people are done speaking.

Give language of "Excuse me."

**Your child uses a loud voice**

6

"Inside voice"

It is best to use the affirmative vs the negative (i.e. "Inside voice" vs "no yelling").

**Your children are fighting over the same toy**

8

"I see there is one toy and two children. What can we do?"

**Your child runs inside**

7

"Use walking feet"

Here are some phrases that will help protect and build your child's **intrinsic** motivation to behave appropriately and work hard. When praising, praise the **effort** instead of the **product**.

"Good for you!"

"Wow, you did it!"

"Tell me about your picture."

"I can see you worked so hard."

"You must be so proud of yourself."

Ask a question.

A smile or a hug is also a great way to show your happiness at your child's success.

**Your child is having a difficult drop off**

9

"It is time to say goodbye now, I will pick you up after you go outside or after nap etc...."

**Your child will not leave nicely when picked up**

10

"It is time to go now, when I pick you up, it is your job to say, 'Hi Mom/Dad,' put away your work, and get your things."

