

Dealing with Resistive Children Tips for Parents

In dealing with resistive children it is important to remember that a parent's goal is to educate the child and assist him in learning more socially appropriate and less confrontational behaviors. While these children can often be taxing we must separate the child from the behavior and recognize that they are not bad children, but children behaving badly. Here a few important tips that have been effective in working with non-compliant and resistive children:

- Avoid power struggles
- Be open to different approaches
- Resist feeling sorry for yourself-focus on the child's needs
- Don't panic
- Be respectful, firm, direct, non-emotional and non-provocative
- Allow choices (they can choose to cooperate or choose to suffer the consequences)
- Model appropriate behavior
- Draw the line and don't move it

About consequences:

It is important that children be allowed to experience the consequences for their actions. Don't rescue your child. The certainty, not the severity, makes the consequence effective.

How to give consequences:

- Consequences should be progressive
- Consequences should be made clear in advance
- Consequences should be related to the irresponsible behavior
- Consequences should be immediate
- Consequences should be monitored for compliance