



## Communicating Well with Young Children Parent Tips

Communication is key to great relationships. Verbal communication is much more than just the words we speak. The tone and volume impart meaning as much as the actual words. Nonverbal communication makes a difference too. Listening, body language, empathy, respect, honesty, and love are all communication skills necessary for learning to interact well with others. Adults can emphasize communication skill building by practicing with children through play and by modeling through interactions with others. Take the time to listen, answer questions, and have conversations with your young children.

Children learn a lot by watching their adult role models. This includes how parents and teachers relate to one another. When a child sees a parent making a new friend or renewing a friendship, the child is more likely to do the same. Building trust and easing stress makes for a more conducive school experience.

Communicate well while teaching and training your child. Speak softly, in close proximity, to improve the child's listening skills. Expect your child to repeat the directive for understanding. Praise your little one when the instructions are carried out. Consistency helps too. *Simply let your "Yes" be "Yes", and your "No" be "No"* from Matthew 5:37a are wise words. The more we negotiate with young children, the more they think the rules and instructions can be debated.

Unfortunately, one of the most detrimental issues in relating and communicating well with others is technology. Eye-to-eye contact with full attention on the person we are conversing is difficult when multitasking with a cell phone. Often, it's to the point of total distraction. Use these tips to aid in avoiding "tech traps".

- Make mealtime screen-free/tech-free.
- Use tv, video, tablet, and cell minimality in the car or while shopping.
- Listen and ask open-ended questions about your child's day at school.
- Keep in mind, The Berry Patch parking lot is a no cell phone zone.

***A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.***  
**Proverbs 15:1 ESV**

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