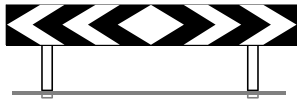




Road Blocks to Good Communication

Avoid these road blocks to ensure good communication...



Ordering, Directing, Commanding

You must do this.
You cannot do this.

Warning, Admonishing, Threatening

You had better ___ or else...
If you don't ___ then...

Moralizing, Preaching

You should do _____.
You ought to try this.

Advising, Giving Suggestions

What I think you should do is...
It would be best for you if...

Persuading, Lecturing, Arguing

Do you realize that...
Here is the right way.

Judging, Criticizing, Blaming

You are acting foolishly.
That is a stupid thing to say.

Name-calling, Ridiculing, Shaming

You are a sloppy worker.
You're talking like a crazy man.

Interpreting, Analyzing, Diagnosing

You are jealous.
You are being paranoid.

Probing, Questioning, Interrogating

Why did you do that?
How long have you felt this way?

Distracting, Diverting, Kidding

Try not to think about it.
Forget about it.


"You never listen to me"
is a complaint heard as
often from children as
parents.








STOP, THINK and CHANGE the way you respond to your child.....


Good communication helps children and parents to develop confidence, feelings of self-worth, and good relationships with others. Try these tips:


 Teach children to listen...gently touch a child before you talk...say their name.


 Speak in a quiet voice...whisper sometimes so children have to listen... they like this.


 Look a child in the eyes so you can tell when they understand...bend or sit down..become the child's size.

 Respect children and use a courteous tone of voice. If we talk to our children as we would our friends, our youngsters may be more likely to seek us out as confidants.

 Use door openers that invite children to say more about an incident or their feelings. "I see," "oh," "tell me more," "No kidding," "Really," "Mmmhmmm," "say that again, I want to be sure I understood you."

 Praise builds a child's confidence and reinforces communication. Unkind words tear children down and teach them that they just aren't good enough.

 Children are never too old to be told they are loved. Saying "I love you" is important. Writing it in a note provides the child with a reminder that he can hold on to.

 Give your undivided attention when your children want to talk to you. Don't read, watch TV, fall asleep or make yourself busy with other tasks.



For more information contact:



The Center for Parent Involvement (FCPI) was funded by the U.S. Department of Education; Goals 2000, Educate America Act from 1994-1999. Guided by an advisory board of parents and professionals, the FCPI's goal was to tap the power of parents.

The FCPI gathered information on parent needs, coordinated the information, and created a series of resources organized by theme, including fact sheets for parents and professionals, "Beyond the Basics" resources, and resource identification lists. Many of the resources have been translated into Spanish language versions, and every effort has been made to preserve the meaning and flavor of the original English documents. This series of materials provides a wealth of current information for both parents and providers; the complete set of resources can be obtained in PDF format on the Department of Child and Family Studies Website at www.fmhi.usf.edu/cfs/dares/fcpi. The staff of the FCPI are hopeful that their work will continue to help children get ready to learn for many years to come.

The series' themes include:

- Family Empowerment
- Parent Involvement
- Parenting Support
- School Readiness
- Violence in the Lives of Children
- Transition to Kindergarten

The Center was one component of a project led by Hillsborough County Center of Excellence in collaboration with the Department of Child & Family Studies at USF's de la Parte Institute and the Florida Children's Forum. Other project partners include HIPPIY (Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters), Hillsborough County Head Start and Hillsborough County Even Start. For more information about these projects, call 813.974.4612.

Parent Support Series, Parent Tip Sheets, #5: Road Blocks to Good Communication.

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