Tips to Help You Teach Your Child

• Think about what your child understands at this age.

Usually, young children don't do things to make their parents mad. They do them because they still have so much to learn.

See the situation from your child's point of view.

Put yourself in your child's place for a moment. This may help you understand why your child is behaving a certain way. Acknowledge your child's feelings.

Redirect your child's attention.

Instead of telling them what they can't do, tell them what they can do.

Help your child understand why their behavior is not acceptable.

Explain why the behavior is dangerous or how it affects others.

• Give your child choices.

Just make sure that you will accept whatever they choose. "Come now or I'll leave you at the mall" is not a real choice.

• Help your child learn how to problem-solve.

This is one of the most important things you can teach your children. They learn how to do it gradually by watching you.

Help your child see how to fix mistakes.

Children need to learn that they can make things better (for example, "Oh – the juice spilled! Let's clean it up together.").

• Show your unconditional love.

In your actions and words, make sure that your child knows you love them no matter what.

Resources: