

PIS Davanagere | Why Don't Children Listen to Our Advice?

"I'm only saying this for my child's own good. Then why won't they listen?" This is a question many parents have. The truth is, children don't necessarily reject our advice; they reject the way we give it—often ignoring their feelings and just lecturing them. If you read till the end, you will understand the mistakes we make as parents and learn techniques to speak so that your child listens and agrees.

1. Avoid Straight Advice (Direct Confrontation)

Never start with a direct command. For example, if your child is constantly poking their ear with a cotton bud, saying, "Don't do that! Why are you always sticking things in your ear?" is a direct attack. The child's instinct will be to clash with you and they might do it even more just to spite you.

The Technique: Speak to their heart. Say, "Son, the ear is a very important and delicate organ. If anything happens to your ear, I won't be able to hear it. Let me help you if you need it." When you speak like this, the child softens and will likely stop the behavior because they feel your care.

2. Connect with Emotions

If a child is throwing toys, just saying "Don't do it" often sounds like "Do it" to them. Instead, sit with them and say, "I think you're a bit upset right now. Tell me why you're angry; maybe I can help." This opens the child's heart. They feel, "Mom understands my struggle," and they will stop the wrong action to talk to you.

3. Never Compare

Never compare your child to others while giving advice. "Look at Ramesh next door, he studies so much better than you." The moment you say this, the child's brain shuts down. They don't want to hear it.

The Alternative: Focus on your child's strengths. "You have so much potential, and I believe in you." When they feel your trust, they will naturally want to put in the effort to study.

4. Don't Advise During Anger

When a child is angry, they are filled with negative emotions. Their "signal" is off. As parents, our instinct is to scold and give tons of advice right when a mistake happens. It won't work.

The Strategy: Say, "You are angry right now, and I am a bit angry too. Let's both settle down first. We can talk once we are calm." Once the heart is open, your advice will actually stick. If they did something wrong, just state your feeling: "I didn't like what you did; I'm upset," and walk away. Discuss the "why" later when things are peaceful.

5. Keep it Brief and Focused

Don't bury them under a mountain of words. If a child takes someone else's pencil at school, don't bring up every past mistake like, "Now you've started stealing, you don't study, you don't listen..." The child will get confused.

The Focus: Stick to the current issue. "If someone took your pencil, wouldn't you be sad? That child's mother might be scolding them now. We shouldn't cause pain to others." This helps them understand the emotional consequence of their action.

6. Value Effort Over Results

We often give advice quickly but fail to praise the child's effort. If you only talk about low marks, the child thinks, "Mom doesn't see how hard I try, she only cares about the grade."

The Shift: Say, "I see how hard you are working. That effort won't go to waste. Keep going." When you acknowledge the effort, the child feels encouraged to do better.

7. Suggest the Right Path, Don't Just Point Out the Wrong

Instead of just saying, "Stop watching TV" (which triggers their ego), point toward the correct action. "It's 7:00 PM, time to study. If it's hard to start, shall I help you?" This makes it a collaborative effort rather than a command.

8. Correct in Private, Praise in Public

This is a golden rule. Never shame your child in front of guests by listing their faults. It hurts their self-esteem and creates resentment. If you must praise, do it in front of others; if you must correct, do it one-on-one.

9. Be Patient (Repetition is Key)

Don't expect a child to change after one conversation. Character building takes time. You may need to remind them gently in different situations. Your patience will actually speed up their transformation.

10. Be a Partner, Not an Authority

If you approach them with "I am the mother/father" authority, they will resist. Instead, ask for their cooperation: "I see you're upset. Let's find a solution together." When you seek a solution together, they won't feel the need to rebel.

Conclusion:

Before you give advice, ask yourself two questions:

- Is the child calm enough to listen?
 - Do I understand what they are feeling (anger, disappointment, or sadness)?
 - If you prepare yourself with these questions, you won't hurt them; you will guide them. Try even two or three of these methods in your next conversation, and you will see the change.
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**“To be in our children’s memories tomorrow,
we have to be in their lives today.”**



Together Let's Build the Future of our Children.



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**With Regards,
Podar Team of PIS Davanagere**