

Chapter 28

Verbal & Physical Redirection

Redirection is used to help children learn appropriate behavior, prevent injury, promote safe exploration, and prevent the constant threat of punishments.

VERBAL REDIRECTION ...

... redirects a child's behavior by stating **what not to do** followed by **what to do instead**.

"No standing in the tubby. Sit please."





"Don't play with the scissors. You could get hurt. Here's a toy to play with instead."

Threats are NOT appropriate ways to use verbal redirection.

Wrong ...

"Billy, you get your coat on right now or you'll get the spanking of your lifetime!"

Right ...

"Billy, in 10 minutes we are leaving to go to grandma's. I expect that you will be ready to go. Thanks for cooperating."

PHYSICAL REDIRECTION ...

... redirects children from dangerous situations or activities to safer, more appropriate ones. Electric sockets, climbing up and down stairs, and putting things in their mouths, are just some of the ways children can be injured.

"That's an oweee, honey!
Come on sweetie, let's
play with your toys
instead."



**Verbal and physical redirection work best
when used together!**

Try this ...

Find situations in your home where you can use verbal and physical redirection instead of spanking or yelling at your children. Describe the situation. How did you handle it?