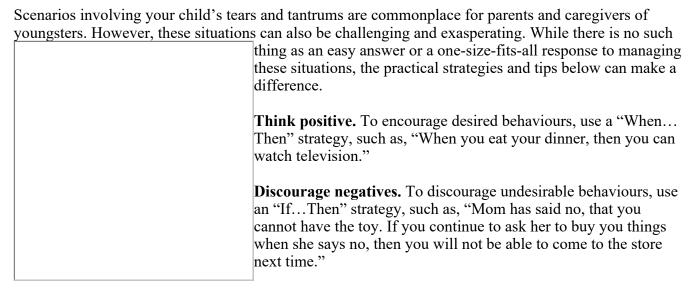
Your Employee and Family Assistance Program is a support service that can help you take the first step toward change.

Discipline strategies for parents of young children



Think ahead. When asking a child to leave an activity that they are engaged in, give notice. Consider saying, "We are going to go into the house in 10 minutes. Next time I call for you, it will be time to come into the house."

Be heard. Children get easily absorbed in the activities they are involved in. Make sure that you have your child's attention before making the request. When eye contact is made, then state your request.

Time out. When a child is screaming and crying to get their way, it can be difficult to remain calm. Yet remaining calm and firm in your expectations is likely to get the best results. To break the power struggle that can unfold when both parent and child are emotional, take a time out—a break for both you and your child.

Be consistent. If parents and caregivers are inconsistent in communicating expectations, then children get mixed messages and use the best way they know how to get their way. Being consistent will help a child understand what is expected of them.

These tips can go a long way in managing typical yet tough situations with young children and remember, it's common for parents of young children to feel overwhelmed from time to time and to experience relationship stress as a result of parenting demands.

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