

What to do if your child misbehaves

With older Children

Problem-solving and making choices help prepare children for their teenage years.

Offer choices

- choices help children learn how to make decisions. Offer simple choices, but do not threaten. For example, "you can wash the dishes or dry them. You decide."

Teach problem-solving

- help your child to define the problem. Ask questions, such as "what would happen if you tried to....?"
- together, think of solutions
- choose the best one
- try it
- afterwards, talk about what worked and what you could try next time

Solve problems together

- as children approach the teen years, they still need clear limits but parents should be willing to negotiate a little
- when children start thinking for themselves, their talking back may anger you. However, to keep communicating, parents must do more listening and more explaining with older children
- talk to the parents of your child's friends about reasonable limits on clothing and curfews
- work with your children to solve problems together

If you are concerned about
a child in your community...
if you believe that a child may be
in need of protection...

Contact the
Children's Aid Society