

# Setting Consequences That Make Sense



Cooperation

## How Will Setting Consequences Help My Child?

Consequences for breaking rules teach your child that his actions matter. Next time he is faced with the same situation, he may stop and think before acting.

## What Can I Do?

When your child breaks a rule, give a consequence that makes sense:

### 1. Give 1 warning: *"Please walk in the house."*

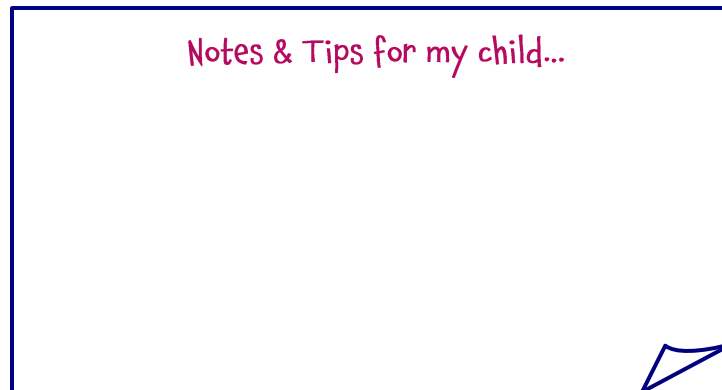
**Exception: If your child has hurt someone or something, do not give a warning. Give immediate consequences.**

### 2. If your child corrects his behavior, thank him for making a good choice.

**If he doesn't, give a consequence that fits the misbehavior, like losing the chance to play with toys he doesn't want to clean up.**

Examples:

- If your child is running in the house, say: *"Stop. You were running. Please go back and walk."*
- If your child makes a mess, he must clean it up before he can do anything else.
- If your child is throwing puzzle pieces, put the puzzle away for the day.



## Rewards for Life!

Teens and adults who understand there are consequences to their actions stop and think before acting. Thinking through consequences prevents problems with family, work, and life in general.

These are general guidelines, not medical advice, for children ages 3 years and older. Consult a physician or mental health professional for specific problems or concerns about an individual child.

For more ideas and resources to help develop children's social-emotional skills and healthy decision-making visit [AcornDreams.com](http://AcornDreams.com), a service of Wingspan, LLC.

