



The 4 C's & Connect to Direct

Giving Directions the Purposeful Parenting Way

The **4 C's**: Purposefully be...

Close ~ get within arm's distance from your child. Lower your body to their level.

Clear ~ to gain your child's attention first:

"Jack, excuse me for interrupting. I need your attention please." (wait for eye contact before giving direction.)

Concise ~ use short phrases and **Concrete** description to direct (not request):

"Time to put the Legos in the bin. Then put on your PJs, please."

What if they don't listen?

- Prompt with key words of 1st step. *"Legos in the bin, please."*
- Sometimes a verbal direction is not enough to help a child's brain to stop fun "want-to" play and shift to a "must -do" task. So, use "Connect to Direct."

Connect to Direct : to help your child pause play and transition to a task

Get down at your child's level. Show interest in your child's activity.

Connect ~

"You love Legos! Look how far you've come on this set. Cool tower! I know it's not easy to stop in the middle of fun...."

Direct ~



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“...Let’s park your project on the table so you can finish it tomorrow. I’ll help you move the pieces.”

Start moving a few of the Legos to model the expected behavior. If needed, use age-appropriate engagement techniques, eg sing the “Clean Up Song” with very young children; challenge the competitive child to beat your countdown from 10; or distract “So, which book are we going to read tonight?”



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