

GIVING DIRECTIONS TO CHILDREN

- ✓ **Try to eliminate distractions before giving a direction**
- ✓ **Make sure you have the child's attention before giving a direction (may need to squat down, get on child's level, gain eye contact, and use a physical prompt if needed)**
- ✓ **Pair gestures (or sign) (or picture) with direction when needed**
- ✓ **Use "DO" statements rather than "DON'T" (i.e. say "WALK" rather than "don't run").**
- ✓ **Provide directions 1 step at a time ("Coat off", Pause, gain compliance, "Boots off".)**
- ✓ **Speak clearly and slowly**
- ✓ **Repeat if necessary, and follow through**
- ✓ **Use the least amount of words as possible to get the point across**
- ✓ **Give feedback: (praise or redirection)**

Pam Kendall revised 3/17

(Adapted from "Parent Articles" Communication Skill Builders Inc., 1988)