

# Back Talk?



At one stage or another, all children will attempt to talk back to a parent. If it happens only rarely, calmly let your child know that you do not appreciate her response and that you'll be happy to listen if she can talk more respectfully. If back talk becomes an ongoing habit...

- ... Don't fight fire with fire...an angry response from you only fuels the fire
- ... Calmly let the child know that you do not appreciate the way in which she is talking to you and that you will be happy to listen when she can talk respectfully
- ... Be willing to listen and respect her point of view when it is presented in a respectful manner (This does not mean you necessarily agree.)
- ... Give yourself time to think decisions through ("I'll get back with you when I have had time to think it over.") and most importantly, model respectful language in the way you talk to your child and all others.



**Parenting** Quick Tips

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