

# **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**
- ✓ **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**

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