

# Logical Consequences

*Logical Consequences is only one of a variety of ways to deal with misbehavior. If you are having trouble thinking of a logical consequence, that suggests that it is not an appropriate approach. Consequences are most effective when dealing the mistaken goal of attention.*

## **Punishment**

Emphasizes adult's authority  
(Makes a demand)

Not always tied to logic of situation

Judges or attacks child

Concerned with past behavior

Disrespectful. Threatens loss of love. A put-down

Demands obedience

Given in anger and may be excessive

Adult becomes policeman, judge, and jailer

## **Logical Consequences**

Emphasize mutual rights and mutual respect  
(Adult's respectful attitude is the key)

Related to misbehavior

Focus on problem, not on child

Focus on present and future behavior

Firm, friendly and caring – without anger

Offers child a choice and another chance later

Reasonably suited to the misbehavior

Adult becomes educator

### **Logical Consequences Are:**

- 1. Related**
- 2. Reasonable**
- 3. Respectful**

## **Steps in Applying Consequences**

1. Describe the problem in a calm and friendly tone.
2. Provide choices and accept child's decision, or discuss possible consequences with child.
3. Follow through with consequence. Assure child of another chance later. Do not give in.

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Compiled from a variety of sources including: Dreikurs and Dinkmeyer & McKay  
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