

Taken from Sharon's book:
[The Power of a Woman's Words\](#)

Words to Avoid with Your Children Words that Tear Children Down

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- You should...
- You ought...
- You can't do anything right.
- You are driving me crazy!
- You make me so upset!
- You make me so angry!
- Why did you do that?
- Why can't you make good grades like your sister/brother?
- Why can't you be sweet like your sister/brother?
- You are a liar. (Change to "You told a lie.")
- You are a thief. (Change to "You stole something.")
- Look at all I've done for you.
- You don't love me.
- You don't appreciate me.
- I've told you a thousand times.
- You'll never learn, will you?

Simply put: avoid sarcasm, teasing, subtle puts downs and jokes at a child's expense. If you have to add, "I was just kidding," to any statement made to a child, it will most likely leave a wound.