



Communicating with Children

God's example in communication

Hebrews 1:1-2

John 1:14

Understanding communication obstacles

What is communication?

What obstacles must we overcome when communicating with children?

How we communicate with children

1. Through Our _____ (verbally)
 - Use clear, simple words
 - Explain new words children don't know, especially "religious" words
 - Add a picture to illustrate biblical words or ideas
 - Check for understanding





2. Through Our _____ (nonverbally)

Communicating Nonverbally

	Positive	Negative
Tone of voice	gentle	harsh
Facial expression	interested	uninterested/frowning
Eye contact	looking toward	looking away
Touch	affectionate	avoid touch
Gestures	open	guarded, keep others away
Spatial distance	close	far

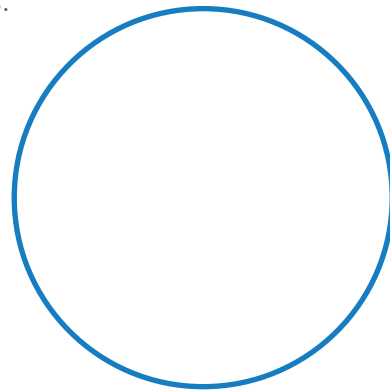
Which speaks louder – Our words or our actions?

What percentage of our communication is:

_____ % Verbal

_____ % Nonverbal (body language)

_____ % Tone of Voice



How children communicate with us

1. Through Their Words (Verbally)

Children do not always have words to express themselves.

2. Through their Body Language (Nonverbally)

- Watch their facial expressions and body language.
- Listen to their tone of voice.
- Identify their emotions.

3. Their context/environment

Become aware of and learn about the issues in their world and family.



Action Steps

Reflect and respond to the following questions:

1. What messages do we want children to hear from us?
2. How can you best communicate those messages to children?