

WHY CHILDREN IGNORE INSTRUCTIONS

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THEY DID NOT HEAR YOU

Children may be focused on something else.
Say their name and move closer before giving the instruction.

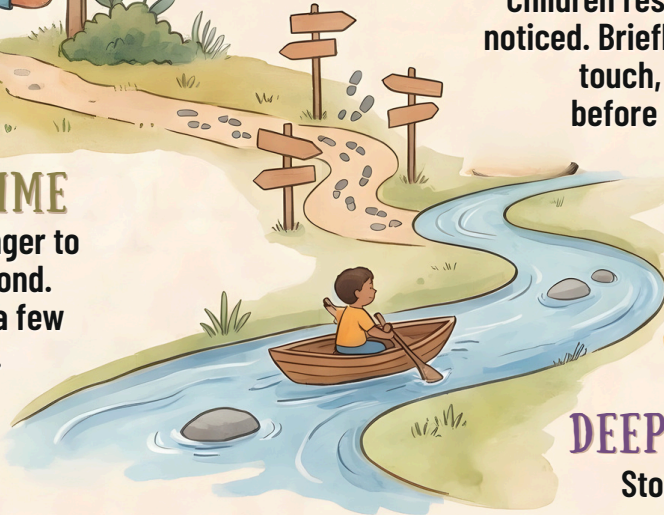
LACK OF CONNECTION FIRST

Children respond better when they feel noticed. Briefly connect first (eye contact, touch, or a short comment) before giving the instruction.



PROCESSING TIME

Some children need longer to understand and respond. Pause and give them a few seconds to react.



DEEPLY FOCUSED ON PLAY

Stopping play suddenly is difficult. Give a warning before the change happens.

EMOTIONAL OVERWHELM

Tired, hungry or upset children struggle to follow directions. Help them calm down first.



TOO MANY INSTRUCTIONS AT ONCE

Several steps can overwhelm children. Give one instruction at a time.

INSTRUCTIONS ARE TOO VAGUE

Children need clear guidance. Say exactly what you want them to do.



THE TASK FEELS TOO HARD

Children may avoid tasks they find difficult. Break the task into small steps.

WANTING CONTROL

Children often seek independence. Offer two simple choices.



THEY EXPECT REPETITION

Children may wait if instructions are repeated often. Say it once clearly and follow through.

Ignoring instructions is often about attention, understanding or overwhelm - not simply defiance or 'naughty behaviour'.



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