



Advice to Parents From Pre-Schoolers

- **Please don't walk so fast when we go places together.** My legs are short and I can't keep up with your long legs. Besides there are many things I need to see and investigate along the way.
- **My attention span is short.** Lots of things last too long—like shopping, visiting and sometimes games you play with me.
- **When I am frightened** of a big dog or something, please pick me up and hold me—that helps more than telling me you won't let anything hurt me!
- **Sometimes it would be nice if you would explain** what is going to happen ahead of time, especially if it is something new. Then I'll know what to do and what to expect. Sometimes you might even have just a conversation with me about anything: it would make me feel that I belonged in this family, too.
- **Sometimes BIG PEOPLE are in such a hurry** they tell me about six things at the same time. I get confused when people say things like: "This afternoon we're going to grandmother's, get your coat, finish your lunch, choose what toy you want to take, and what shoes do you have on?"
- **Please make sure you know whether or not I understand** what you want me to do before you get mad at me for not doing it.
- **Please give me time to do things for myself.** I know I'm slow. I haven't learned how to put on my clothes yet, much less do it fast. What's all the hurry about, anyway?
- **I have trouble sitting still** especially in the car. It's not very interesting to look at the back seat or that dash board thing. I'm too little to see what's outside and "sit-down" like you want me to.
- **Sometimes my neck hurts trying to see** what's on the dining room table—or looking up at big people's faces Please put me on a chair—or bend down to me.
- **I know I may not always say the right thing.** Please remember I'm still a person. When you tell secrets or private things to other big people, how should I know not to repeat them?
- **I know I lose arguments** but it is fun sometimes to get you riled up and I know I can sharpen my wits that way. But why let yourself get angry? You know better!
- **I may be small and don't know about lots of things yet, but I'm not stupid!** Please don't treat me as if I can't understand anything that is going on.

**Adapted from Ruby Harris, Spec. in Family Relations and Leadership Training, University of California **