

HELPFUL PHRASES

for Responding to Common Kid Complaints

When your child says....

"You're so mean!"

"I hate this toy!"

"You never let me do anything!"

"She's always taking my stuff!"

"It's not fair!"

"You're not the boss of me!"

"I want it now!"

"I'm bored!"

"I cant. I can't."

"This is stupid!"

Flip it using a "want" or a "wish"

"You wish I were nicer"
(Child who likes nice people)

"You want a different toy."
(Child who knows what s/he likes)

"You wish you could make all the decisions."
(Child who likes to be in the lead)

"You want her to respect your belongings."
(Child who appreciates respect and courtesy)

"You wish things turned out differently."
(Child who knows what s/he wants)

"You want to be in charge."
(Child who likes independence)

"You wish you didn't have to wait."
(Child who likes things prompt and efficiently)

"You wish things were more exciting."
(Child who likes excitement)

"You want to be successful."
(Child who likes mastery)

"You wish this was more meaningful."
(Child who likes things they understand)

