Dear Parents,

Think back to the not-so-distant past when you couldn’t wait for your little one to say “Momma”, “Dadda”, “Bye-bye”, “Thank-you” and all those other wonderful first words. You were awed and amazed by everything they said. Now that they’ve become preschoolers though, their vocabulary is increasing daily, but now you wish they weren’t quite so verbal. The video below addresses this issue by offering practical advice and wisdom in dealing with a preschooler’s sassy backtalk in a way that will be pleasing to God while creating an atmosphere of positivity in your home. After you’ve watched the video, please feel free to get back to me in order to share one or two ways this video encouraged you in this area of your parenting journey.

<https://vimeo.com/parentministry/review/143995452/92cd3758b0>

The task of teaching your preschooler to use their words respectfully and politely can be challenging; especially since they don’t always understand when they’ve said something inappropriate. However, the following tips will help you get the job done!

1. Speak to your preschooler the way you want them to speak to you and to others. Besides not speaking ‘baby-talk’ to your child, speak with respect as you would anyone else.

2. Don’t over-react. When your preschooler says something they shouldn’t, calmly but firmly explain that this isn’t a) a word they are allowed to use or b) this is not a nice way to talk. Follow this by giving them a different word to use and/or demonstrate the proper way to say what they said.

3. When your preschooler says something in a sassy or disrespectful voice, tell them to repeat what they said the right way. “Oops, let’s try that again” usually does the trick.

4. Be consistent. Don’t allow your preschooler to sass you when they’re tired, but not when they’re fully rested. Sassing isn’t allowed tired, rested, sick, well, guests, just family, etc. If it’s not allowed, it needs to be across the board.

Your children are God’s gift to you. Treat them with all the TLC they deserve, and don’t forget to live God’s Word as you parent them through their preschool years:

“*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord*.” Ephesians 6:4

“*Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it*.” Proverbs 22:6

Building Young Disciples,

Pastor Sarah