

Saying "Yes" (so they won't know it's no) ~ guiding behavior for peaceful parenting ~

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By Stephanie Olsen

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After this afternoon's fiasco, I've developed a new parenting philosophy: never deny your child anything.

"Yes, darling, of course you can take drugs (after you kill me and do away with my body)."

"Sure, dear – do start smoking! As soon as you've eaten these three packs of menthol cigarettes..."

"Of course you can have a chocolate bar, baby. When you're finished that broccoli, we'll walk over to the store and buy one."

"You sure can go outside honey! Once we're done picking up your toys, we'll play on the swings together."

Keep direct negative replies at bay unless it's imperative such as in a potentially dangerous situation. A curbside "Mommy, can I cross the street by myself?" needs to be dealt with instantly and distinctly. Discussion and education can take place later.

Of course, you've got to be right on the ball otherwise it's quite possible that you may inadvertently agree to bungee-jumping directly the vacuuming is done. If you've erred, the back-up here to is belly laugh loudly (holding your sides for further effect), wipe your eyes and say: "My, my! I'm just being so silly today!"

If you're in a non-critical circumstance but still need to say "no" (such as the invariable plea to stay up a little longer), try going sideways: "On the weekend, you can stay up till 10:00, but only if you go to sleep right now".

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By using "no" less often, it will be taken more seriously by the kids when you do say it. In the same way, your qualified yes gives the child what she wants ("yes, you can paint") as well as what you want ("as soon as we put away these puzzle pieces"). Tasks assigned with your proviso should be done together as much as possible, to keep your positive-negative positive, non?

Stephanie Olsen, published writer, homeschooling mother of two and ESL teacher currently residing in Europe, is also owner of the expatriate site, Family Life Abroad <http://www.familylifeabroad.com> where you'll find humorous and informative articles by experienced expatriates on all aspects of living abroad, with lots of links and travel tips.

## **Parenting Is Tough – Make It Easy**

**By Nadia Alvino**

### **Parenting Is Tough – Make It Easy by Nadia Alvino**

Raising children and being a good parent is tough, you need every bit of information that you can find to help you develop effective parenting techniques and to make parenting easier. You need a resource that contains parenting tips and advice that will help develop your parenting skills. I have produced a practical, high quality, professionally edited ebook titled " Parenting is Tough ! " that contains all the expert parenting advice that you will need to develop effective parenting skills. This ebook outlines many helpful parenting tips that will enable you to raise good, happy, confident and resilient kids. This easy to read ebook will teach you how to bond with your children and how together you can create a loving, happy relationship that will get stronger and stronger as your children become teenagers, young adults and then as they become parents themselves. More info on this ebook is available at: [www.goodhappykids.com](http://www.goodhappykids.com)

I am an experienced child care professional, parenting consultant, author and pshychologist.

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