Reversing Don't with Do

Children will more likely make an appropriate choice when you help them find and understand their options.

Conflict and Reaction Guidelines
- Take a deep breath and remain calm.
- Use a soft voice and redirect.
- Place the attention on what you want the child to learn.

“Do” phrases and modeling
Incorporate these “do” phrases and modeling to reduce conflict during these common situations:

Child is dragging their coat on the floor
- In a calm voice say, “Hold your coat up on your arms so it doesn’t touch the floor.”

Child is slamming the doors shut
- In a calm voice say, “close the door softly,” and model how to do it.

Child is drawing on the table
- In a calm voice say, “Use your crayons to color on your paper.”

You want a child to take his feet off the table
- In a calm voice say, “put your feet on the floor.”

How to lead children through a “You have it, I want it” conflict.

Provider: It looks like both of you want to play with the ball. James had the ball first. Georgia, use your words and ask James if you can play with the ball. Say, “James, can I have the ball?”

Response if James says yes: “Thank you James, for being a good friend and sharing with Georgia.”

Response if James says no: “Georgia, James wants to play with the ball for a few more minutes. Let’s go find you a different ball. Do you want the blue one or the green one.”