WHY IS POSITIVE COMMUNICATION IMPORTANT?
Parents who talk positively with their children, create a healthy environment that encourages emotional development and family security.

Speaking - Take time to explain yourself fully. Do not yell or criticize. Speak with respect and kindness.
Listening - Pay attention to your child’s words. Let your child know you are truly interested.
Reacting - Show enthusiasm. Be responsive to your child by praising them for a job well done or for good effort.

ACTION PLAN FOR POSITIVE PARENT/CHILD COMMUNICATION
• Choose words your child will understand.
• Be a good listener.
• Be direct, honest and open.
• Be sensitive to the emotional impact of what you say to your child. Think before you speak.
• Make time each day to have a conversation about anything your child wants to discuss.
• Use questions in conversations to show your interest and generate an open response.

PHRASES THAT PRAISE
• You’re #1!
• Great job!
• Well done!
• You can do it!
• You’re the greatest!
• Super job!
• I support you!
• Thanks for being honest!
• What would I do without you?
• I’m so proud of you!
• I love you!
• You made my day!
• Nice work!

WHO TO CALL FOR HELP
Parent Helpline
1-800-CHILDREN

For more online tip cards, visit kcsl.org under the “Resources” tab.

Parenting questions? Call the Parent Helpline.
1-800-CHILDREN or email/text 1800children@kcsl.org