

Beware of Rough Terrain

How to Have a Successful Outing



Children need to learn how to behave in public, but it can be hard to take a misbehaving child anywhere. Here are some tips to make outings more successful:

- Set expectations before you leave the house and review before entering the store, etc. Be specific when explaining what “good behavior” *looks* like. For instance, not touching any items in a store without permission or not running away at the park.
- Have your child agree to the expectations, verbally, before you get out of the car. For older children, let them tell you what they understood.
 - If your child begins to break a rule or expectation, immediately remind them of their agreement.
 - Leave if bad behavior continues, even if your reason for going is not done.
 - After a trip, praise your child for following the agreement. If your child did not follow the agreement and misbehaved, discuss what went wrong and how they’ll do better next time. Have the child tell you what they will do next time, instead of you telling them.

