

## Words Are Not for Hurting

By Elizabeth Verdick

Even young children can be responsible for what they say and the words they choose. Look at this book together, and help your child understand the difference between helpful and hurtful words.

One of the most important lessons young children can learn is how their actions and words affect others. These tips from the author can help you teach your child about empathy, understanding, and polite behavior.

- Use this book interactively. Invite your child to respond to questions while reading. You might ask, "Why is this girl crying?" or "How do you think this boy feels?"
- Have a discussion about helpful and hurtful words. Give some sample phrases (Get away from me! Excuse me. That's ugly. Thank you.) and ask your child to decide if those are helpful or hurtful words.
- Notice when your child uses words in kind or helpful ways.
- Gently intervene when you hear your child use hurtful words.
- Teach the importance of "I'm sorry."
- Model polite talk. Remember: you are a powerful influence on your child's behavior.

### Read More—related books

**Roses Are Pink, Your Feet Really Stink** by

Diane de Groat

**How to Be a Friend** by Laurie Krasny Brown

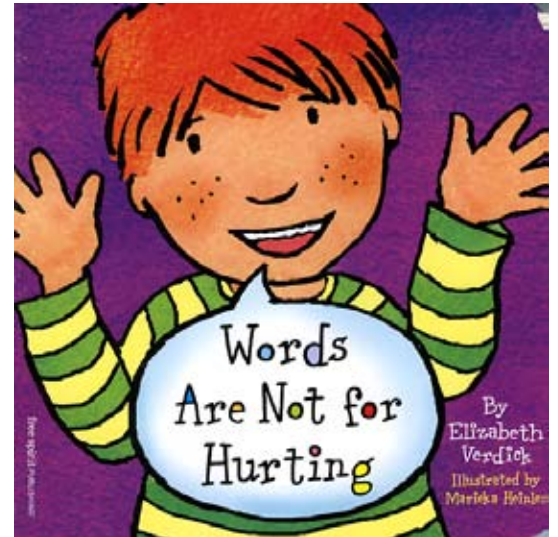
### Learn More—related information

Partnership for Learning—tips for raising polite, kind, and honest kids

<http://www.partnershipforlearning.org>

Sesame Workshop—Do Manners Matter?

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org>



### View More—

related shows on WILL-TV

#### **Dragon Tales**

3/8 at 8:00 AM

#### ***Teasing Is Not Pleading***

Emmy can't wait to play Dragonbasketball with her friends. She's having a great time until two players on the other team tease her when she misses a shot. Emmy tells them just how she feels, but that doesn't stop their teasing. Quetzal helps Emmy see that she has to show the teasers that their words don't bother her anymore.

#### **Barney and Friends**

3/27 at 10:30 AM

#### ***That Makes Me Mad***

Barney acknowledges that everyone gets angry sometimes, and encourages his friends to find good ways to express and deal with their anger.

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