

CARE™

YOUNG to SCHOOL-AGE CHILD

HANDOUTS

MIND YOUR Ps & Qs

The Meaning of the Saying

This expression, meaning "be very careful to behave correctly," has been in use from the 17th century on.




Theories include:

- an admonishment to children learning to write
- an admonishment to typesetters (who had to look at the letters reversed)
- an admonishment to seamen not to soil their navy pea-jackets with their tarred "queues" (pigtailed)
- "mind your pints and quarts"
- "mind your prices and quality"
- "mind your peds and queues" (either feet and pigtailed, or two dancing figures that had to be accurately performed)
- the substitution of /p/ for "qu" /kw/ in the speech of uneducated ancient Romans or the confusion by students learning both Latin and Ancient Greek of such cognates as penta and quintus.

The most plausible explanation is the one given in the latest edition of Collins English Dictionary: an alteration of "Mind your pleases and thank yous."

MIND YOUR Ps & Qs

AVOID the 3 Qs During Child-Led Relationship Building Activities

	Qs	EXAMPLES	REASON
	<p>1. QUASH the need to lead!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Avoid unnecessary commands</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw me a house. (Direct Command) • How about you try it this way? (Indirect Command) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directions and suggestions take the lead away from the child. • Suggestions are often hidden directions, and the adult expects the child to comply. • If a child doesn't follow the direction, it can cause bad feelings.
	<p>2. QUIT <u>Unnecessary</u> "Information" QUESTIONS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">QUIT "Tone-of-voice" QUESTIONS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What sound does the cow make? • What are you building? • Do you want to play with the train? • How many brothers and sisters do you have? • Child: I'm going to color the dog purple. • Adult: You're coloring it purple? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions tend to lead the conversation. • Many questions are commands and require an answer. • It may seem like you aren't listening to the child. • It may sound like you disagree with their idea.
	<p>3. QUIET the criticisms: DON'T STOP QUIT NOT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quit being silly • That wasn't nice. • I don't like it when you make that face. • Stop crying! • No, you shouldn't do that. • That animal doesn't go there. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Negative talk" often increases negative behavior. • It can also create friction.

MIND YOUR Ps & Qs

USE the 3 Ps During Child-Led Relationship Building Activities

	Ps	Examples	Reason
P	1. PRAISE (Specific) appropriate behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good job of putting the toys away! • I like the way you're sitting so quietly. • Nice job following the directions. • Thank you for sharing. • Thank you for using your indoor voice. 	Specific praise... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tells the child exactly what you like about her/his behavior. • Is more powerful in changing behavior than punishment and/or fear. • Causes a child's good behavior to increase. • Lets a child know what you like. • Makes you and child feel good.
P	2. PARAPHRASE appropriate talk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child: I drew a tree. Adult: Yes, you drew a big tree. • Child: My shirt Elmo. Adult: Your shirt does have Elmo on it. • Child: I like to watch Barney. Adult: You like to watch Barney on TV. 	Paraphrasing... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lets the child lead the conversation. • Shows the child that you are listening. • Shows that you accept and understand the child. • Helps improve a child's speech. • Increases the amount of talking you do with the child.
P	3. "POINT OUT" the child's appropriate behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You're making a tower. • You drew a square. • It looks like you're putting the girl inside the fire truck. • Now you are picking up the blocks. • You're concentrating on your picture. 	Pointing out behavior... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lets the child lead. • Shows the child that you are interested. • Teaches the child concepts or ideas. • Models speech for the child. • Holds the child's attention on the task. • Organizes child's thoughts about the activity.

MIND YOUR Ps & Qs

Praise (Specific)

That was great counting you did.

You're very good at remembering your alphabet.

Great job sitting still at the table!

You're doing such a good job of working hard.

You have a wonderful imagination the way you are building that castle.

You did a great job of helping him with his tower.

You drew it perfectly!

This is a terrific house we made together.

I like how you are sharing your Legos.

That's a wonderful story you are telling.

Thank you for asking him politely for the red block.

I love it when you use such good manners.

You are just super at taking turns.

Good job finding that toy!

I am really impressed with how hard you are trying to fix that.

You're doing a great job of speaking with an inside voice.

You made a gorgeous picture!

Nice idea to fix the car.

MIND YOUR Ps & Qs

Paraphrase

Child: I made a tower.

Adult: You did make a tower.

Child: The choo-choo go whiz.

Adult: The train goes very fast.

Child: Give me the car.

Adult: Oh, you want the car.

Child: Cow moo.

Adult: The cow says moo.

Child: The clown makes me laugh.

Adult: The clown is funny.

Child: Build a castle.

Adult: You want me to build a castle.

Child: This piece don't fit.

Adult: Yes, that piece doesn't fit.

Child: I'm drawing a square.

Adult: You are drawing a yellow square.

MIND YOUR Ps & Qs

Point Out (Behavior)

You're building a pickup truck.

You're working hard to find that piece.

You're putting the cow in the barn.

That's a new song you sang.

You're sitting very quietly.

It looks like you are picking out all the red ones.

You're drawing a picture of a tree.

You're looking for something else to play with.

You've lined up all the cars for the car wash.

Looks like you drew a tornado.

You look like you're putting some toys away.

You're using your inside voice.

You are giving me the picture you drew.

You put them together in a long, straight line.