

Tips to prevent and eliminate **TATTLING!**

Keep in mind that a child's tattling might be about getting attention, but it is mostly about power and control. It is about trying to get someone to do what he or she wants them to (the other child, you, or whoever is being tattled about). The best way to eliminate tattling is to make sure that the child doesn't actually get any power or control from the behavior. Children tattle because they are trying to figure out the difference between right and wrong so they have to question EVERYTHING!

Strategies to help eliminate tattling:

- Accentuate the positive: Require your children to say 1 positive thing about the other. Knowing that they are less likely to lodge complaints.
- As the parent you may say; “Thank you for telling me”....and then ignore it.
- Initiate a no tattling policy within your household
- There is a difference between telling and tattling
- Not allowed to tattle unless there is a real physical or emotional threat made against the one that is tattling.
- *Is it T.N.K.?* Is it true....Is it necessary.....It is kind?
- Tattlebox: Tell children to “Write it down and put in box”.
If it is necessary, you will get back to them.
- Tell it to the ear: Enlarge a photo of an ear and tape it to the wall! This will satisfy their need to tell “something” or someone.