

CRITICISM ISN'T ALWAYS A BAD THING.



- **Criticism is good.** We all make mistakes, children and adults alike. Criticism teaches children self-control, helps them learn from their mistakes, and teaches them how to do better.
- **Balance your act.** Constructive criticism and proactively responding to your child and redirecting their behaviour actions, and efforts require a balancing act.
- **Respect the feelings of your child.** Focus on the behaviour that needs changing-not your child. Speak with kind words.
- **Deliver a clear message.** Children need to understand how they can make improvements. Simply telling them they aren't doing a good job isn't enough.
- **Offer opportunities to make amends.** Doesn't mean your child necessarily owes you amends, it means that they need the opportunity to do better. Ask your child for ideas on how he/she thinks he/she might do better next time, and then you can offer your own ideas if appropriate.
- **Learn to move forward.** It takes strong character to move beyond the initial hurt that criticism cause, Sometimes the best lesson you can teach your child is how to read criticism and know if they are valid or the result of someone venting.