

# LESSON 7

## Swearing

### Getting Ready

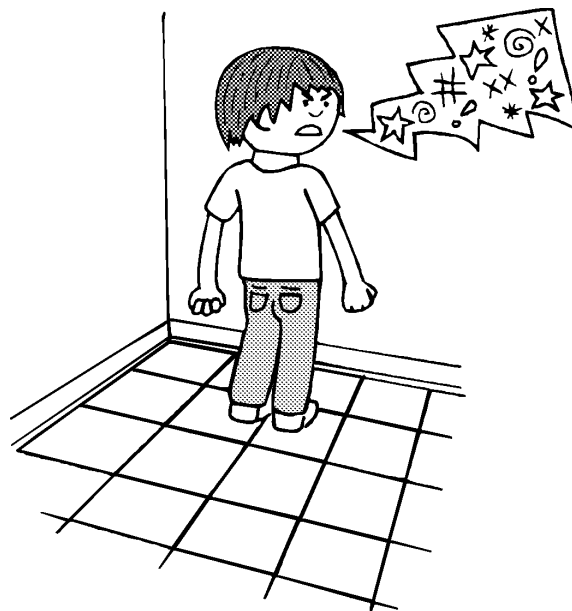
1. Read through the lesson before working with the child.
2. Organize the materials you will need for the lesson:
  - Progress Chart
  - Items necessary for completing lesson activities
  - Pencil or pen for marking charts
  - Reward badge or other tangible reward
3. Arrange a work space that will best suit lesson activities.
4. Begin working with the child.

**Note:** Make sure you observe and chart the child's behavior for one week before you begin the lesson. You can then compare the first week's chart with those of the following weeks to determine progress. (For more information on charting, refer to "Monitoring Child Progress" on page 9.)

### Directions

If a child hears someone swear, he will probably swear. He may try out some "forbidden words" for the shocked reaction he gets or to appear "grown-up." The suggestions in this lesson may help you teach a child not to swear:

1. Watch the child when he is in a situation where he might swear. If he uses another more acceptable word, praise him for not swearing. "I know that you are upset, but I liked the way you expressed it."
2. When the child swears, explain to him that such language is not allowed and suggest that he use more acceptable speech. Each time he uses a more acceptable word praise him.
3. If the child still swears after you have told him not to, take him to the "quiet area" right away for one to three minutes. Do this every time he swears. Make sure he understands the rule and knows why he is going to the "quiet area." Say "You may not swear" or "You may not use that word!" Do not say anything else.



4. Keep cool. If it appears that the child is swearing just to shock you and get your attention, ignore the swearing if there are no other people close by. If there are others

around, quietly move the child to a "quiet area." Above all, do not allow the child to think that he has succeeded in shocking you.

You may have to put a child in the "quiet area" more than once. When he finally realizes you are serious, he will understand that he must go to the "quiet area" if he swears. If he uses a more acceptable word, he will make you happy and receive praise.

5. Be sure to chart the child's behavior so that you can determine his progress. Use the Progress Chart on page 65.
6. Once the child has mastered the skills in this lesson, give him a reward badge or other tangible reward.

#### Remember:

1. Notice when the child is behaving.
2. Be specific in your praise.
3. Reinforce immediately.
4. Reinforce small steps.
5. Follow the three steps for teaching.
6. Be consistent.
7. Ignore misbehavior.
8. Create a "quiet area" and use it when necessary.
9. Set conditions.
10. Make effective demands.
11. Reason with the child only when he is behaving.

## Adult Dialogue

The skills to be taught in this lesson will vary from child to child. For this reason specific adult dialogue is not included. A few examples, however, are provided which demonstrate adult interactions with children in a variety of situations:

**Example 1:** Praising for not swearing.

**C:** That darn Billy hit me again today.

**A:** I'm sorry that Billy hit you, but I like the way you said it. Let's go and play a game

together.

**C:** Okay.

**Example 2:** Teaching the child to use another word.

**C:** I can't make this damned puzzle fit.

**A:** Steven, please don't say that word. I know you are upset about the puzzle, but please use a word that is acceptable.

**C:** I can't make this crazy puzzle fit.

**A:** That's better, Steven. That sounds much nicer. Now let me see if I can help you with it.

**Example 3:** Taking to the "quiet area" for swearing.

**C:** There isn't a damned thing on television tonight!

**A:** You know the rule. You are not allowed to swear.

(Takes child to the "quiet area." Explains that he must sit without talking for a certain period of time. At the end of the time, allow him to return to what he was doing.)

# Progress Chart

BEHAVIOR: \_\_\_\_\_

## Daily Tally

DATES	MON	TUE	WED	THR	FRI	SAT	SUN	TOTAL

## Weekly Graph

