

Communication Slashers  
(when readiness to listen may be more important)

➤ Orders: 'Don't do that again!'

---

➤ Threats: 'If you do that again, I'm going to punish you.'

---

➤ Preaching: 'You ought to know better than that.'

---

➤ Logical persuasion: 'I read an article that said doing that will cause you a lot of harm. You wouldn't want that to happen, would you?'

---

➤ Advice: 'Next time you feel like that, just go and .....'

---

➤ Criticism: 'You were really stupid to do that.'

---

➤ Praise: 'I still think you're a nice person anyway.'

---

➤ Reassurance: 'That's too bad, but don't worry, it's just one little mistake.'

---

➤ Diagnosing: 'The real problem is your parents don't spend enough time with you.'

---

➤ Cross-examining: 'You know the rules. Why did you do it?'

---

➤ Changing the subject: 'This happened to another kid here at school and he was really...'

---

➤ Sarcasm: 'Of course, you thought your would never get caught.'

---

**Sometimes children and adolescents need to express how they feel without you having the answer or saying something just to get them out of the emotion.**