



How to TALK and TEACH Children

- 1) **SESAME STREET SYNDROME** - Thanks to today's media influence children learn by way of the Sesame Street Syndrome. The three teaching methods of this syndrome are: **FAST, COLORFUL, and LOUD.**
- 2) Remember the age group!!! This program speaks to 4-9 year olds. 4-year olds can't read well yet and 9-year olds think they are no longer "babies". Know your age group. If you're talking to different ages at once, have activities for the younger ones and activities for the older ones. See handout.
- 3) Do not speak to them like they are children. Talk to them like you would anyone you are trying to teach. You are speaking on serious issues you want your children to learn about, do not make less of your issues by "dumbing it down". Baby voices are **NOT** needed (unless you are reading a story and doing voices of the characters); the children will understand you and will listen to you better. Do watch your language, use correct grammar, do not use slang.
4. Children have short attention spans! Keep lecturing short and activities, games, sign-a-longs, etc...longer. Keep their attention by playing games that reinforce what you're saying. Keep their attention on you by moving around the room (use good judgment on this!)
5. Everyone, especially **CHILDREN**, learn everything by the five senses. Children remember things better when they see it, hear it, and they do it. Have posters with important facts on them or use the board to write on. Have the children repeat it back to you or better yet make them tell you the answer or idea. Make them do it...have them teach it back to you!
6. Most important - **HAVE FUN!** Play with the; sing the song with them, be a child when it comes time to do an activity. General rule of thumb....if you have the children do it, you do it too!