

## One Liners for Parents – Tools You Can Use Immediately with Your Kids.

**Child:** "It's too hard. I can't do it."

**Answer:** "Oh, really. What do you think I think about that?"

**Child:** "But I don't need my coat!"

**Answer:** "Won't it be fun to find out?"

**Child:** "You never \_\_\_\_\_." Or "You always \_\_\_\_\_."

**Answer:** "I bet it looks that way. Tell me more."

**Child:** "You're clueless!"

**Answer:** "A clueless parent has got to be such a burden." Or "Having clueless parents must be such a drag."

**Child:** "Whatever."

**Answer:** "Thanks, pal." (Turn and walk away.)

**Child:** "You just don't get it!" (Translation: "I'm so unique and special that rules and limits should not apply to me." Kids also use this when they don't want, or are afraid, to tell us what we don't get.)

**Answer:** "I guess I can be a little slow at times. Maybe you could explain it in a different way."

**Child:** "Those grades are not my fault. The teacher just doesn't like me."

**Answer:** "It must feel awful to get grades like that. Is there any way we can help?"

**Child:** "I don't have to put up with this. I'm going to live with Dad!"

**Answer:** "Not to worry. I'd rather have you here, but I'll love you wherever you live."

Reminder: These responses are never intended to be flippant remarks that discount the child's feelings. They absolutely must be said with compassion and understanding. If an adult uses these responses to try to get the better of a child, the problem will only become worse. The parent's own attitude at these times is crucial to success.

So when your kids come up with something that leaves you speechless, and you are stuck, say, "I'm not sure how to react to that. I'll get back to you."

***Then you can race to contact me for answers!***