Steps for issuing instructions:

1. Instruct or tell your child to complete the behavior in a manner in which you would like to be asked (nicely). Do not give a choice, do not ask a question! Keep your instructions brief and specific, and issue one at a time.

2. Give the child adequate time to begin, and praise the child immediately when he or she begins and follows your command. (“Good job!”, “Thank you for doing as I asked.”)

3. If your child does not do as asked, give a reminder and state the consequences for non-compliance.

4. Give your child adequate time to respond and reward his or her efforts or, if your child does not respond, follow through with the stated consequences.

5. Once the consequences have been administered, state your original request again in an appropriate manner.

6. With a younger child, you may need to physically, but gently, guide or lead the child to where he or she needs to be to begin the task.

7. Repeat this process as often as needed.