



Talk less. **Do more.**

Distracted, drowsy, I-don't-want-to-go-to-school-today kids can be difficult to corral. So you nag and negotiate until you're tired of hearing your own voice. Instead of shouting, try silence. To get everyone moving in the morning without saying a word: **Get your child started dressing**—slip on one sleeve, say—and he'll likely finish the job all by himself. **Walk up and hold out your finger** for him, wherever he's playing. He'll stop any Lego building or *Dora* watching and grab it. **Lead him, silently**, over to where his coat or backpack always hangs, waiting for him.

Source: Nancy Blanning, a Waldorf kindergarten teacher for 17 years and co-author of *You're Not the Boss of Me! Understanding the Six/Seven-Year-Old Transformation*

No More Tie-ups Help your preschooler pick up her morning pace with Tie Buddies. The plastic devices easily attach to laces and make it simple for little hands to control shoe tying—so your morning won't be all tied up in knots (\$9, tiebuddies.com).



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WHAT MAKES US LATE

I'm in constant telecommuting mode, so in order to take my daughter to school at 7:15 every morning, I start my workday at 5:30 a.m. from home on my computer. I'm constantly rushing around at the last minute to answer that last email/request/question that came in from people already in the office so that they feel "responded to" while I'm out juggling my family obligations.

—Phebe Neely Ciulla

When my children were younger, they had my number! They always knew how to stall me at home. My third child in particular had a habit of sneaking into the bathtub with all of her little toys, so we could delay her start at day care. So clever!

—Laurie Kelley

I am perpetually exhausted, so I never do things the night before like I should. Instead of the coffee-pot automatically going on, I spend time making coffee. If it's my day to prep the kids' lunches for school, I am making them last-minute, or searching for exact change for my son to buy lunch if we have (yet again) run out of sandwich fixings.

—Denise G.