

Mistakes

Please be patient with me. I am still learning about how the world works. While I learn, I will make lots of mistakes.

- **Please understand that I make mistakes for a lot of reasons.**
- **Please understand that I need you to help me understand the rules.** Sometimes I make mistakes because I don't understand all of the rules about how things work. Even when I do seem to understand, I need lots of reminders because I can forget them easily. Sometimes I remember the rule but don't have enough control over my body yet to follow it.
- **Please understand that I'm still learning about consequences.** Some times I make mistakes because it is still hard for me to understand the consequences of my actions, even when you tell me. I need you to teach me over and over again. Please know that sometimes I will forget.
- **Please understand that sometimes I make mistakes because I have big feelings inside.** What I do, usually has something to do with the way I feel. Sometimes I have little feelings like I didn't get enough sleep last night. Sometimes I have big feelings like missing you or feeling worried or scared. When I have big feelings it may be hard for me to behave and follow the rules until you can help me talk about them.
- **Please understand that I feel best when I do the right thing. I don't do things on purpose just so I can feel bad.** At times like these, please remind me that I can't feel good inside when I break the rules. Wonder with me what I was feeling inside that made me forget. I might have felt mad or scared or worried and not been able to tell you with words so I showed you instead.
- **Please understand that when I make mistakes, it helps me if you stay calm.** I get scared if you use a loud voice or hurt my body. Feeling scared may make me do what you want but it will not help me learn. It will only make me feel nervous and worried about making more mistakes. When you stay calm and help me fix my mistake, you are teaching me what to do next time. I feel really good inside when you are happy with me.

