

HOW TO BRIBE YOUR CHILD

1 Make an offer you know your child can't refuse.

Offer what your child desires most—money, new CDs, more video game time, candy.

2 Do not offer too much initially.

If you are willing to give your child a quarter every time he remembers to flush the toilet, start lower—offer a dime first, and expect a couple rounds of negotiation. Children today are savvy negotiators.

3 Get performance first, then pay.

Withhold payment until you have determined that your child has carried out the other side of the bargain. Children often conveniently forget their promises.

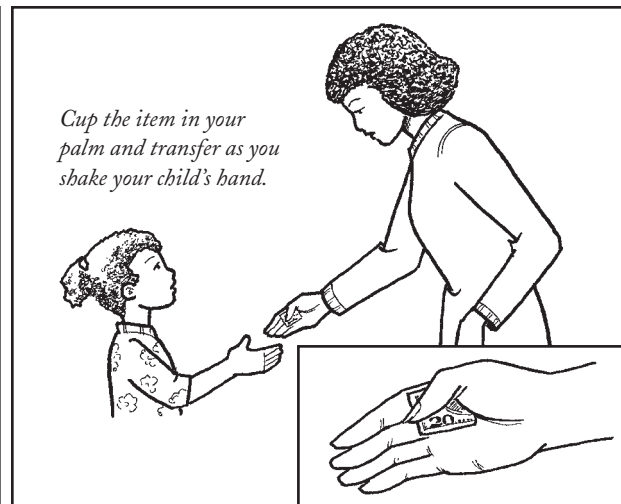
IF YOU WISH TO CONCEAL THE BRIBE

1 Make certain that you are alone when discussing terms.

Even younger siblings who you think do not understand can turn you in.

2 Arrange a “dead drop” for making payments.

Select a location in or around the home where you will deposit the bribe. Place the item(s) in a gym bag or another commonly seen container. Leave the bag at the predetermined spot (in the laundry basket, behind



the coats in the closet, under your child's bed) and walk away quickly.

3 Master the “magician's palm” technique when paying with coins or bills.

Hold the item in your palm, cupping it slightly. Congratulate your child on “a job well done” or on his maturity. Shake your child's hand, and give him the money.

Be Aware

- Bribes are highly effective but are almost always an indication of weak or lazy parenting. Choose what is most important at that moment.
- Couples frequently disagree over whether to bribe children. Children almost always are in favor of it.