



Privilege Loss Procedure

Based on the *Parent Training for Disruptive Behavior Disorders Protocol*
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Families who have been through Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) often wonder what they should do down the road when their child “outgrows” time-out. You can use the same exact procedure and replace the time-out with a structured loss of privileges. Follow the same steps you used for the Parent-Directed Interaction (PDI) phase of PCIT adjusting verbal prompts as follows:

1. Start with an effective direct command and wait quietly for 5 seconds to see if your child obeys.
2. If the command is obeyed, give a labeled praise.
3. If the command is not obeyed, give the warning statement, but instead of stating that the child will go to time-out, state that one privilege will be lost for the day/night.
E.g., “*If you don’t [restate your command], then you will lose [computer, TV, dessert, video game, going to your friend’s house, etc.] for the day.*”
4. If the command is obeyed after the warning, give a labeled praise.
5. If the command is not obeyed after waiting quietly for another 5 seconds, then tell your child that the 1st privilege has been lost, again specifying what that privilege is.
6. Repeat the command and wait quietly for 5 seconds to see if your child obeys.
7. If the command is obeyed, give brief acknowledgment (e.g., “Okay,” “thank you”) so that compliance without any privileges lost is the only scenario that gets the highest reinforcement with the labeled praise.
8. If the command is not obeyed, give the warning that a 2nd privilege will be lost for the night.
a. “*If you don’t [restate your command], then you will lose [state which privilege will be lost, e.g., computer, TV, dessert, video game, go to friend’s house that day] for tonight.*”
9. If the command is not obeyed after waiting quietly for another 5 seconds, then tell your child that the 2nd privilege has been lost, again specifying what that privilege is.
10. Repeat the command a 3rd time and wait quietly for 5 seconds.
11. If the command is obeyed, give brief acknowledgment (e.g., “Okay,” “thank you”) so that compliance without any privileges lost is the only scenario that gets the highest reinforcement with the labeled praise.
12. If the command is not obeyed, give the warning that your child will be on “total reward shutdown” and lose all privileges for the night.
13. If the commands are still not obeyed, then institute total reward shutdown where no privileges are given for the rest of the day/night with a fresh start tomorrow.
14. Your child can get out of total reward shutdown by complying with the original command, but the first 2 privileges remain lost for the entire night with no option to earn them back.