Why won’t my child listen?!

Toddlers and preschoolers are into being independent. They like to see what you will do. Testing limits is how they figure out their world.

What can we do?

- Set firm rules that you keep, i.e. no playing in the street
  - Try to make other caregivers use the same rules

- When you are not mad, explain the rules and what will happen
  - If you go into the street, Mommy will put you in a time out

- Stay calm when you explain the rules

- Understand what they can do at their age

- What happens should be based on how serious what they did
  - Little kids don’t understand time
  - Consequence needs to come immediately
  - If it is too harsh, they will give up trying to be good
  - Time out is one minute for their years
  - After a punishment, they have to go back and obey you
    - They need to pick up their toys, ask you to help them cross the street, etc.

- Praise them when they behave so they don’t hear only yelling from you

- Spend fun time with your kids, they will respect you more

- Don’t hit- kids only learn: “When angry- hit”