

Strong-Willed Women Mothering Strong-Willed Children

By [Cynthia Tobias](#)



"My strong-willed child and I are like two goats fighting on a cliff — neither of us is backing down and we're both willing to go over the edge to get our way." This recent admission from a strong-willed mom undoubtedly has a lot of you nodding in agreement.

If you're a strong-willed woman, it can be tough to parent a younger version of yourself. But you also have a definite advantage — you know what it's like to be a strong-willed child. From that angle, let me remind you of three important truths:

Often it's not *what* we say; it's [how we say it](#).

You're tired and frustrated and you command, "I said do it *now!*" No strong-willed child wants to be ordered around, but we all need to respect and obey authority. So think about how *you'd* want to be spoken to — and if necessary, ask for a do-over. Keep your voice calm, but firm.

"We need to get this done before we leave — are you about ready to go?" you ask.

"No," answers your child.