

The Stop Yelling Handbook



Dirt & Boogers
Nurturing the Seasons of Motherhood

By Amanda Rueter

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Instructions

Thank you so much for purchasing this handbook, it's packed full of tips and worksheets that can help you on your journey to stop yelling at your children.

First of all, I need you to know that even with the help of this handbook, you'll probably yell every once in a while, and that's okay.

I know, I know. You're thinking, "but Amanda, I bought this handbook to help me stop! You're telling me that I'll still yell?!" Yep, that's what I'm saying. And here's why.

You are human and you get angry, and you make mistakes. It happens. But, the last thing I want you to do is to feel angry at yourself and so guilt ridden that you stop trying. You are

learning something new, you're changing your behaviors, and that takes time. We learn from our mistakes, so it's okay if you don't stop yelling right away. The goal of this handbook is to help you become more aware of your anger and yelling, and to help you learn how to control it so that it doesn't overtake your life.

The goal is for you to yell less often and with less intensity than you do now. With the help of this handbook, you soon won't be able to remember the last time you yelled at your children. And, if you do yell again, it won't be as intense.

This handbook can help you on your journey to stop yelling.

Below, is a list of the handouts included, as well as instructions on how to use each one.



The Anger Scale

Before we can stop yelling, we have to be aware of our body's reaction to anger. By being aware of the anger creeping in, we can stop the anger explosion in its tracks. On this sheet, you'll understand exactly how it feels when anger builds and you'll learn when to start implementing calm down tips.

50 Calm Down Tips

When you start to feel anger rise, it's important to begin calming techniques before your mind is flooded with anger. Try out a few of these when you notice yourself getting to a level 3, once you're up into a level 5 on the anger scale, it's time to remove yourself and take a break.

ABCs of Yelling

Print this poster out and hang it somewhere in your home, I suggest the kitchen. Use this handout when your anger has been triggered. A – Awareness. The Anger Scale helps you be aware of when anger begins. When you feel anger building it's time to... B – Breathe. You must stop before the anger explodes and implement a few calm down tips. C – Calmly Take Action. Only take action to address the situation that's triggered your anger after you're calmer.

Physical Reminders

This handout teaches you all about physical reminders. You'll learn what they are and how to pick the best reminders for you.

Identifying Underlying Anger

Anger explosions happen because of lots of little irritations and stress that up build over time. You may think that you're yelling because of one specific thing that happened to you, but there's so much more under the surface that you might not even be aware of. This handout will help you be aware of the little things that build and build until you explode.



Triggers Tracker

Discover the things that make you scream! These are the big triggers, that we all have, that cause us to jump straight to anger. This handout will help you see what's triggering your anger.



The Yelling Chart

It's time for some positive reinforcement. This is your daily sticker chart. At the end of every day, you get to decide if you've earned a sticker for not yelling that day. I know it might sound silly to give yourself a sticker chart, but trust me, it works. Just try it for a few days and you'll see. I've seen people use this chart with their kids, where they ask their child if they earned a sticker for the day. It's a fun way to include the whole family in your journey. *Don't have stickers? A little checkmark works well too.



The Art of Apology

Like I said, you'll probably yell again. There are times when life gets hard and you might raise your voice again. Then what? Growing up, my Mama used to say "Sorry isn't good enough." Well, she was right. A flippint, "sorry", really isn't good enough, neither is just ignoring that the yelling never happened. We must talk about it and apologize. This handout will teach you how to make a truly heartfelt apology. Don't skip this step, it's important!

Okay, get on with it! Flip to the next page to start your journey to stop yelling. If you get stuck or have any questions along the way, send me an email to amanda@dirtandboogers.com and I'll help you out.



The Anger Scale



Level One:

You are happy, calm, cool relaxed. Maybe even laughing. Life is good. Your heart rate and breathing are both slow and steady.



Level Two:

Still pretty relaxed, but might start feeling a bit annoyed by something, but you handle it with ease. Your heart rate and breathing are still slow.



Level Three:

Starting to feel agitated. You feel a bit tense in your muscles, your heart rate starts to pick up. You aren't yelling yet, but you maybe snapping at people, making demands, and rolling your eyes.



Level Four:

You're feeling angry now. Your body is tense and you can feel the anger in your muscles. Your heart rate is picking up a bit more. Your teeth and hands maybe clenched. You're probably yelling and it's hard to sit still so you might start pacing or cleaning.



Level Five:

Feeling rage. Your body is so tense that you feel the need to throw things. Your heart beat is racing and your face maybe red. You're sweating and your palms and teeth are clenched. You are not only yelling, but ranting and raving. You are so angry that you can't think straight.

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50 Calm Down Tips

Move

- Start doing jumping jacks
- Shake your arms and legs
- Go for a walk
- Go kick or throw a ball outside
- Start cleaning something
- Jump up and down
- Do push ups
- Tap your hands on the table over and over
- Chew on a piece of gum
- Fidget with something
- Run in place

Play

- Give your kids a really big hug
- Put on music and have a dance party
- Playfully chase your kids around the room
- Make funny sounds
- Start wrestling with your kids
- Make silly faces at your kids
- Give a piggy back ride
- Have a tickle fight with your kids
- Color in a coloring book
- Lay down on the floor and play dead
- Blow bubbles

Relax

- Take some deep, cleansing breaths
- Tense your body and release
- Walk away
- Squeeze a stress ball
- Listen to calming music
- Take a break and lay down
- Close your eyes relax your body
- Make a calm down bottle and look at it
- Take a hot shower

Get it Out

- Silently scream
- Sing loudly to a great song
- Scream in a pillow
- Cry...it's okay to let them see you get upset
- Laugh out loud
- Yell outside
- Tear apart paper or a magazine
- Write out your feelings in a journal
- Scream "I LOVE YOU" to your kids

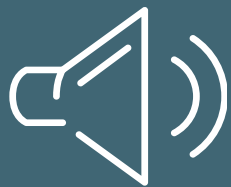
Talk

- Make a long shhhh sound
- Call a friend
- Start counting
- Tell your kids how you feel
- Say to yourself, "I am calm" or "I can do this" or "I love my kids"

Crazy Ideas

- Pretend you're on camera or that someone is watching you
- Blow up a balloon
- Whisper
- Look at a favorite picture of your kids
- Cuddle a baby doll or stuffed animal and sway back and forth

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ABCs of Yelling

When I start feeling angry, I will . . .

Assess
the
Situation

Breathe!

Calmly
Take
Action

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Physical Reminders

One of my favorite stop yelling tips is the use of physical reminders.

Physical reminders are simple tokens to remind you to calm down when you start to feel angry.

They work best when placed somewhere where you usually yell (dinner table, bedtime, rear-view mirror in car, going out the door, and so on) – or they can be things that you wear so you have them with you all the time.

When I made the commitment to stop yelling, I placed yellow hearts all over my house as a physical reminder to stop yelling. Some people wear a necklace or rings as reminders.

Here are a few good examples of physical reminders:

- ▶ Wear a temporary tattoo on the inside of your wrist
- ▶ Have a special ring or bracelet
- ▶ Put a safety pin or paper clip on the armband of your shirt
- ▶ Wear a rubberband around your wrist
- ▶ Paint a fingernail a certain color
- ▶ Put up yellow hearts in places where you are triggered
- ▶ Put up photos of your children
- ▶ Put up a favorite quote that will remind you to stop yelling

Whatever you decide your physical reminders should be, make them personal to you and use them every day.

6 Underlying Anger

When we get angry, there's usually more going on underneath our anger. It's normal for small underlying agitations and stress build and build until finally we explode. This list will help you identify some of the small things that frustrate you so you can be aware of them.

Circle the ones that affect you.

| Sensory | Basic Needs Not Met | Stress |
|------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Too hot | Unshowered | Financial Concerns |
| Too cold | Hungry | Disagreements with others (spouse, friends, family) |
| Touched too much | Tired | Too much to do |
| Uncomfortable clothing | Dehydrated | Worry and anxiety |
| Too loud | Any physical pain | Job stress |
| Too bright | Have to go to the bathroom | Big changes like new babies, moves, divorce, or death of a loved on |
| Itchy skin | | |

Write out any other underlying agitations that make you feel uncomfortable and stressed.

Take a few minutes and think about how you can eliminate some of these things so that they don't agitate you. (for example: turning off all background noise when your kids are home or asking for help with some of your stress).

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Tracking Triggers

| Day, Time | Who did I yell at? | What made me angry? | What was I doing? | My thoughts | Was I hungry or tired? | Were my children hungry or tired? | Possible trigger |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
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The Yelling Chart

| Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | |
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The Art of Apology

A bit of truth: You will probably yell at your kids. We aren't perfect and sometimes we yell. The challenge here is to yell less often and with less intensity (rage). What do you do after you yell? Do you do nothing and pretend that it didn't happen? Do you apologize for yelling, or do you shift the blame back onto your kids?

Think about it for a minute. Do you ever say, "you made me yell" or "if you would have just ____ then I wouldn't have yelled at you"?

Now think about this. Do you want your children to place blame on others for their own behavior? "He hit me first, so I hit him back. It's not my fault!" My guess is that you don't like it when your child blames others for their own behavior. We teach children how to take responsibility by modeling it for them.

So let's practice on how we apologize for our behavior, so that our children can learn to take responsibility for their own actions.

Listen to
this
apology:

"I'm sorry I yelled, I should not have done that. I got upset when we're running late because being late really frustrates me. I should not have yelled, and I'm sorry for that. What can we do next time so that we aren't running late?"

Let's break it down.

- 1 Apologize for what you did.
"I'm sorry I yelled."
- 2 Say what made you angry.
"I get upset when we're running late because being late really frustrates me."
- 3 Apologize again for yelling.
"I should not have yelled, and I'm sorry."
- 4 Don't place blame on your child for yelling.
Very Important
- 5 Problem solve and work with your child on the issues that made you angry.
"What can we do next time so that we aren't running late?"

More Examples of well-crafted apologies

"I'm sorry I yelled. I get extremely angry when I see my child get hurt. I know you were angry, but it's not okay to hit your brother. I should not have yelled, and I'm sorry for that. So, let's talk about what else you can do besides hitting your brother, and how you can apologize to him."

"I'm sorry I yelled. I'm really upset about some things and I took it out on you. I'm so sorry."

"I'm sorry I yelled. It makes me frustrated when I ask you to do something and it doesn't get done. It makes me feel like I'm being ignored, and that really makes me angry. I should not have yelled, and I'm sorry about that, I'll try to react better next time. Now, let's talk about why you chose to not listen."

Try this: Take a minute and think about the last time you yelled at your child. Write out a well-crafted apology on the lines below:

Thank You!

Thank you again for purchasing this Stop Yelling Handbook. I hope that it's helped you stop the yelling.

Need more support? Check out my Stop Yelling Course, Mama's Anger Management. It has even more insight, tips and techniques that will help you become the calm, happy parent that you've always wanted to be.

Check out <http://courses.dbparenting.com/mamas-anger-management/> for more information.

Warmly,
Amanda Rueter