Guiding Children to Solve Their Own Problems

Love and Logic Step One: Empathy.
“How sad.”
“I bet that hurts.”

Love and Logic Step Two: Send the “Power Message.”
“What do you think you’re going to do?”

Love and Logic Step Three: Offer choices.
“Would you like to hear what other kids have tried?”
At this point, offer a variety of choices that range from bad to good. It’s usually best to start out with the poor choices.
Each time a choice is offered, go on to step four, forcing the youngster to state the consequence in his/her own words. This means that you will be going back and forth between Love and Logic steps three and four.

Love and Logic Step Four: Have the child state the consequences.
“And how will that work?”

Love and Logic Step Five: Give permission for the child to either solve the problem or not solve the problem.
“Good luck. I hope it works out.”
Have no fear. If the child is fortunate enough to make a poor choice, he/she may have a double learning lesson.