

CONTROL....am I not supposed to have some?

Honestly, No. You do not have control over your child. They were born with free will, the ability to have control over themselves. One of the first big areas children show their self control is eating. You spoon it in, the brrrrrrpppp it back out. From there on it is downhill.

What you do have control over are consequences. "When you choose the behavior, you choose the consequence" should be our motto with the kids. You cannot stop a child from being openly, clearly, explicitly defiant to you. You can control what consequence you assign. You can let the defiance slide. You can give a short lecture. You can say "oh, I know you don't really mean that." You can ground them for the rest of their life. You can restrict privileges (TV, curfews, and car keys...depending on the age). You have options. Some better than others.

The only way to raise a responsible child to adulthood, is to hold them responsible for their decisions. Blaming others won't do it.