

CAUSES OF BEHAVIOR--CASE STUDIES

Explain the four basic reasons children act out:

1. **Stage of Growth:** The child is behaving in a normal manner for the stage of growth he/she is in.
2. **Unfulfilled Needs:** The child's needs are not being met and she/he is acting out in order to try to get his/her needs met.
3. **Environment:** The child is uncomfortable in or does not understand his/her environment.
4. **Doesn't Know Better:** The child has not been taught the concept he/she is dealing with.

For each of the following case studies, have the class identify the reason the child is acting out. Have them explain their reasoning.

1. Peter, age 2 1/2, goes to church with his father. His father becomes very upset with him because he will not sit still.
2. A father has taken his 10-year-old daughter fishing for the first time. She keeps snagging her hook and getting messed up about what she should do.
3. It is about 11:00 in the morning. Mary and John have been playing peacefully with tinker toys. Gradually tempers flare and soon John wants all of the tinker toys for himself.
4. A group of children in the child care center are playing in the housekeeping area. One child is the mother, another the father, and others are members of the family. Another child comes to the group to play, but is immediately rejected. The rejected child starts to cry.
5. A four year-old takes his big brother's knife and tries to cut a carrot. As a result, he cuts his finger.
6. Michelle and her family moved to a new house. Michelle is usually very happy; however, now she doesn't want to play and she cries a lot.
7. Jon, a three-year-old, usually goes to bed without any fuss. However, tonight, Mother is having a party and he comes out of the bedroom several times, demanding attention.
8. When Dani goes to Grandma's house, she always jumps on Grandma's bed. This makes Grandma upset and she keeps hoping Dani will stop jumping.
9. No matter how many times his mother reminds him to be careful, Kato keeps knocking over a plant in the house, making a big mess.
10. While Tammy's mother was at a meeting, she decided to do the laundry for the first time. When her mother returned home, she found all of the white laundry was now pink.
11. Vince, a three year-old, goes into his mother's bedroom and sees a lipstick on the dresser. He opens it and paints all over his face.
12. Mary and Sue are playing house. Sue accidentally splashes some water from the sink on Mary. Mary fills a glass with water and pours it on Sue. They end up having lots of fun and a big water fight.