

## Exercise 6-1: Identifying Motives of Misbehavior

*INSTRUCTIONS: Read the parent description of the situations below and decide how the parent felt and what the child's motive for misbehavior was. (Possible answers on following page.)*

1. "Danny has always been an independent little boy. However, recently things have been getting worse. For several days he has been clamoring to ride his trike to Joey's alone. Joey lives at the end of the next block, and although there is not much traffic, I still don't feel comfortable with his going by himself."

"Well, yesterday he went by himself even though he had promised to stay on our block. I was so mad I brought him home immediately and put his trike in the attic of the garage so he could not ride it again. While I was putting the trike up, he went out and took the blossoms off all the flowers he could reach. I was crushed! I was planning to use some of them in a display for the garden club next week, and he knew that. Why did he do something so vile?"

Motive of misbehavior: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's feeling: \_\_\_\_\_

2. "I don't know what has come over Lari. She has become such a nuisance. Yesterday, while I had company, she asked me to read her a story. Usually I don't mind reading her a story, but yesterday I wanted to talk with my friend. I told her nicely that I would read her a story when my friend left. Next, she took off her clothes and started to go outside. I don't mind her being naked inside, but not outside. So I had to stop talking with my friend, bring her back, and help her put her clothes on so she could go outside."

Motive of misbehavior: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's feeling: \_\_\_\_\_

3. "Zac is so stubborn, sometimes I don't know what to do. Yesterday, for example, he had played outside all afternoon and should have been hungry. But would he eat? No! I explained that he needed food to grow strong muscles and bones, but he refused to eat. I changed tactics and told him if he didn't eat, he couldn't have any dessert. He replied, 'So what? I don't want any. And I won't eat the yucky old meat loaf anyway.' Then I got really angry and told him, 'Listen, young man, you stay at the table until your plate is clean.' He started eating then, but ate very slowly. I had to keep him at the table half an hour after everyone else left."

Motive of misbehavior: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's feeling: \_\_\_\_\_

4. "Annette used to be a lot of help, not perfect, but she would try. She dressed herself, and she could get something for me if I needed it. I don't know what has come over her, but she can't do anything anymore. I have to dress her, wipe her bottom if she remembers to go potty, or help her change her pants if she doesn't. She can't remember to do anything. It's almost like having a baby again. I've tried everything I can think of to make her act her age, but it's hopeless. Nothing works. I hope she grows out of it."

Motive of misbehavior: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's feeling: \_\_\_\_\_