

Exercise 2-3: Problem Ownership

INSTRUCTIONS: Look at the situations below (from Exercise 2-1) and decide "who owns the problem" and what needs are not being met.

- A. **A parent with a crying child:** "Matthew (age 2½) is a crybaby. When I leave him, he cries and clings to me making a big fuss. He is the biggest crybaby around."

Who owns the problem? _____

What needs are not being met? _____

- B. **Parent with a slow dressing child:** "Mary (age 4) is a lazy dawdler. She won't concentrate on dressing unless I am right there beside her. I have trouble getting her ready and getting to work by 9 AM."

Who owns the problem? _____

What needs are not being met? _____

- C. **Parent with a frustrated child:** "Margaret (18 months) is so uncoordinated, she can't do anything. She can't even build a tower of four blocks like Amy. Whenever the blocks fall down, she whines and cries."

Who owns the problem? _____

What needs are not being met? _____

POSSIBLE ANSWERS: These are possible answers. Your answers will vary depending on how you see the needs of the parent and the needs of the child.

- A. *Matt owns the problem — he needs his mother's reassuring presence. OR
The parent owns the problem — she is bothered by the noise.*
- B. *Mary owns the problem — she needs a lot of time to dress. OR
The parent owns the problem — s/he needs to leave on time.*
- C. *Margaret owns the problem — she cannot do what she is trying to do. OR
The parent owns the problem — s/he does not want to hear Margaret whining and crying.*