

Why Does Your Child Do That?: It's More About You Than Your Child

Presented by:

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What is it Like to Have a Disability?

Let's Do a Little Math...

NEVER ALLOW ANYONE TO SAY...

“He does that because he has autism.”

Really!?

Or

“That’s too hard for him to learn...he has autism.”

Or

“She just doesn’t get it...she does have autism ya’ know.”

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Remember When Dr. Lovaas said this?...

“If a child cannot learn in the way we teach,
we must teach in a way the child can learn.”

...so why are educators, therapists and others still blaming our
children for their behavior and learning challenges?

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Can We Agree on a Few Things?....

THE BIG 3:

1. Accepting NO
2. Waiting
3. Being interrupted and told to Transition

What other challenges are YOU having?

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The Only “Technical” Terms We Will Discuss

Reinforcement: Increases the likelihood of a behavior occurring again under the same or similar conditions.

Extinction: No longer providing reinforcement for a previously reinforced behavior.

Punishment: Decreased the likelihood of a behavior occurring again under the same or similar conditions.

Extinction Induced Variability: ...this is fun...let’s discuss!

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Is it Your Child's Fault that they have Problem Behavior?

...of course not!!

..."why not?" you say?

...let's figure out why not...

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First...why does behavior occur?

1. Something happens in the environment
2. The person responds to what happened in a specific way
3. The environment responds in a specific way that will increase or decrease the likelihood of the person responding in the same way again.

Easy! ...right?

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Examples:

1. Mom is on the phone.
2. Daughter now needs mom's attention.
3. Mom tries to ignore the daughter.
4. The daughter escalates in intensity.
5. Mom can no longer ignore the daughter and gives into her demands.

What happened?

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Examples:

1. Your son asks for cookies when he sees them in the supermarket.
2. You say "Not now sweetie...you'll spoi..."
3. Before you can finish what your saying, your son drops to the floor repetitively screaming that he wants cookies.
4. A rush of heat hits you as if the eyes of the world are you and you give in and put the cookies in the cart.
5. Not good enough for your son, he wants the cookies
"NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOWWW!"
6. You give him cookies.

What did you just teach him?

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Examples:

1. The bus is going to be in front of your house in 10 minutes so you tell your daughter to get her shoes.
2. She starts to walk to get her shoes but sees your iPhone on the table and picks it up instead.
3. You insist that she put it down and get her shoes.
4. She ignores you.
5. You escalate and now you're yelling, red faced and certainly flustered.
6. Yelling worked! Your daughter is now getting her shoes and you think to yourself, "Why do I ALWAYS have to yell?!" ... what happened?

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Examples:

1. Your son walks around the house "stimming"
2. You wonder why he doesn't play with the thousands of toys/games/activities that you have purchased for him.
3. You and your partner decide that you haven't found the right toys so, you go buy more toys.
4. Your son ignores the play activities and continues "stimming"

...why?

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Examples:

1. It's time for dinner and you have been trying to teach your child to eat different foods and it has been a challenge to say the least.
2. As soon as you say, "Time to eat...come here please."
3. Your child runs screaming in protest in the opposite direction.

You don't have the energy to follow-through (yesterday you did!)

... what are you teaching him?

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What Are YOU Doing?

1. Are you taking care of yourself (first and foremost)?
2. Are you "walking on eggshells?"
3. Are you being proactive or just "putting out fires?"
4. Are you learning from your mistakes?
5. Are you actively teaching appropriate replacement behaviors?

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What are YOU doing?

6. Are you being sure that there are MANY opportunities for your child to practice communicating appropriately?
7. Are you capturing AND contriving opportunities for appropriate behavior? Requesting and Rejecting?
8. Are you using behavior specific praise?
9. Are you and your partner on the same page?
10. Are you hoping things will get better?

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One Final Comment...

It is up to us...together.

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Thank you!