

Common Passive Attention-Seeking Misbehaviors

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Children the Challenge

Behavior	Child's Purpose	Common Adult Reaction	Helpful Adult Reaction
Laziness	to keep adult involved by stalling for time	prodding, coaxing, threatening and sometimes giving up	stop prodding, coaxing and threatening; set up consequences and follow them
Dependency	get others to do what they are capable of themselves; e.g. "I can't" or I don't know how."	reminding and often doing the child's task	help the child get started; have child work on his/her own; gradually help less
Tired/lack of Energy Feigned illness	get preferential treatment "I wish I could...but I have an awful headache."	give in and help the child	if you not sure, get a medical exam If nothing is wrong allow the child to accept consequences for incomplete tasks
Shy	to avoid situations that require active participation	excuse them because of their timidity	provide short, frequent non-threatening ways for children to express themselves
Fearful	to prove helplessness because they are afraid	sympathize	discuss the reason for the fear and work on a plan to overcome it
Self-indulgence	to get others to do things for them	do things for them that they are capable of doing	realize that you are being manipulated and allow the child to do their own tasks
Charmer	to use personality to get attention for what they are or are not to do	go out of their way to do for the child because s/he is so nice	recognize only actual accomplishments
Clinger	to glue themselves to an adult for support and confidence	encourage behavior because adult believes s/he is needed	contract with the child to spend time with the adult and some time away
Good Looks	to use good looks to get what they want	overlook the behavior because the child is so "cute"	recognize only actual accomplishments