

Stories for Parents

Story 1

Imagine that you visit your child at school and see him or her playing on the playground in a running race. Your child tries really hard to win the race, but loses instead. After the race, your child says it was a stupid race and calls the winner a bad name.

1. How would you feel if your child acted this way?

1	2	3	4	5
very good		neutral		very bad, upset

2. Would you punish your child, and if so, how much would you punish him/her if he/she acted this way?

1	2	3	4	5
not at all		moderately		very sternly

3. If your child acted this way most of the time, how worried would you be that your child would grow up to have problems later on?

1	2	3	4	5
not at all		somewhat		very worried

4. What would be your most important goal in parenting in this situation?

1	2
Getting my child to stop misbehaving now	Making sure my child grows up to be a good person

If you were in this situation, there would be many things you could say or do. Imagine you go up to your child and slap him/her.

5. How likely would it be that you would act this way?

1	2	3	4	5
not at all likely	unlikely	unsure	likely	very likely

6. How good or bad do you think this is, as a way to act?

1	2	3	4	5
very bad	bad	unsure	good	very good

7. If you acted this way, would your child call the winner a bad name again after losing a race?

1	2	3	4	5
definitely	probably	maybe	probably not	definitely not

8. If you acted this way, how much would your child respect you?

1	2	3	4	5
very much	much	somewhat	only a little	not at all

9. How easy would it be for you to act like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very easy	kind of easy	unsure	kind of hard	very hard

10. How would you feel about yourself if you acted like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very good	good	unsure	bad	very bad

11. How much would other adults like you if they saw you acting like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very much	much	somewhat	only a little	not at all

Imagine instead that you pull your child aside and say, "You should be ashamed of yourself! You have embarrassed me and embarrassed yourself."

12. How likely would it be that you would act this way?

1	2	3	4	5
not at all likely	unlikely	unsure	likely	very likely

13. How good or bad do you think this is, as a way to act?

1	2	3	4	5
very bad	bad	unsure	good	very good

14. If you acted this way, would your child call the winner a bad name again after losing a race?

1	2	3	4	5
definitely	probably	maybe	probably not	definitely not

15. If you acted this way, how much would your child respect you?

1	2	3	4	5
very much	much	somewhat	only a little	not at all

16. How easy would it be for you to act like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very easy	kind of easy	unsure	kind of hard	very hard

17. How would you feel about yourself if you acted like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very good	good	unsure	bad	very bad

18. How much would other adults like you if they saw you acting like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very much	much	somewhat	only a little	not at all

Imagine instead that you pull your child aside and say, "I know you must be disappointed about losing the race, but it's important to treat the winner kindly."

19. How likely would it be that you would act this way?

1	2	3	4	5
not at all likely	unlikely	unsure	likely	very likely

20. How good or bad do you think this is, as a way to act?

1	2	3	4	5
very bad	bad	unsure	good	very good

21. If you acted this way, would your child call the winner a bad name again after losing a race?

1	2	3	4	5
definitely	probably	maybe	probably not	definitely not

22. If you acted this way, how much would your child respect you?

1	2	3	4	5
very much	much	somewhat	only a little	not at all

23. How easy would it be for you to act like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very easy	kind of easy	unsure	kind of hard	very hard

24. How would you feel about yourself if you acted like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very good	good	unsure	bad	very bad

25. How much would other adults like you if they saw you acting like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very much	much	somewhat	only a little	not at all

Story 2

Imagine you are in a hurry one morning and need to leave home with your child very soon. Your child refuses to go with you.

1. How would you feel if your child acted this way?

1	2	3	4	5
very good		neutral		very bad, upset

2. Would you punish your child, and if so, how much would you punish him/her if he/she acted this way?

1	2	3	4	5
not at all		moderately		very sternly

3. If your child acted this way most of the time, how worried would you be that your child would grow up to have problems later on?

1	2	3	4	5
not at all		somewhat		very worried

4. What would be your most important goal in parenting in this situation?

1	2
Getting my child to stop misbehaving now	Making sure my child grows up to be a good person

If you were in this situation, there would be many things you could say or do. Imagine you grab your child's arm and say, "If you don't come with me right now, you'll be sorry."

5. How likely would it be that you would act this way?

1	2	3	4	5
not at all likely	unlikely	unsure	likely	very likely

6. How good or bad do you think this is, as a way to act?

1	2	3	4	5
very bad	bad	unsure	good	very good

7. If you acted this way, would your child refuse to go again in the future?

1	2	3	4	5
definitely	probably	maybe	probably not	definitely not

8. If you acted this way, how much would your child respect you?

1	2	3	4	5
very much	much	somewhat	only a little	not at all

9. How easy would it be for you to act like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very easy	kind of easy	unsure	kind of hard	very hard

10. How would you feel about yourself if you acted like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very good	good	unsure	bad	very bad

11. How much would other adults like you if they saw you acting like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very much	much	somewhat	only a little	not at all

Imagine you scolded your child by saying, "You are going to make me late! You should be ashamed of yourself."

12. How likely would it be that you would act this way?

1	2	3	4	5
not at all likely	unlikely	unsure	likely	very likely

13. How good or bad do you think this is, as a way to act?

1	2	3	4	5
very bad	bad	unsure	good	very good

14. If you acted this way, would your child refuse to go again in the future?

1	2	3	4	5
definitely	probably	maybe	probably not	definitely not

15. If you acted this way, how much would your child respect you?

1	2	3	4	5
very much	much	somewhat	only a little	not at all

16. How easy would it be for you to act like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very easy	kind of easy	unsure	kind of hard	very hard

17. How would you feel about yourself if you acted like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very good	good	unsure	bad	very bad

18. How much would other adults like you if they saw you acting like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very much	much	somewhat	only a little	not at all

Imagine you told your child you would count to 10 and if the child wasn't ready to go by then, the child would not be able to play with his or her favorite toys the next day.

19. How likely would it be that you would act this way?

1	2	3	4	5
not at all likely	unlikely	unsure	likely	very likely

20. How good or bad do you think this is, as a way to act?

1	2	3	4	5
very bad	bad	unsure	good	very good

21. If you acted this way, would your child refuse to go again in the future?

1	2	3	4	5
definitely	probably	maybe	probably not	definitely not

22. If you acted this way, how much would your child respect you?

1	2	3	4	5
very much	much	somewhat	only a little	not at all

23. How easy would it be for you to act like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very easy	kind of easy	unsure	kind of hard	very hard

24. How would you feel about yourself if you acted like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very good	good	unsure	bad	very bad

25. How much would other adults like you if they saw you acting like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very much	much	somewhat	only a little	not at all

Story 3

Imagine that one day your child comes home from school with a note from the teacher to you. The note explains that the child was disrespectful of the teacher that day and talked back during class.

1. How would you feel if your child acted this way?

1	2	3	4	5
very good		neutral		very bad, upset

2. Would you punish your child, and if so, how much would you punish him/her if he/she acted this way?

1	2	3	4	5
not at all		moderately		very sternly

3. If your child acted this way most of the time, how worried would you be that your child would grow up to have problems later on?

1	2	3	4	5
not at all		somewhat		very worried

4. What would be your most important goal in parenting in this situation?

1	2
Getting my child to stop misbehaving now	Making sure my child grows up to be a good person

If you were in this situation, there would be many things you could say or do. Imagine you spank your child to teach him/her that being disrespectful of the teacher is wrong.

5. How likely would it be that you would act this way?

1	2	3	4	5
not at all likely	unlikely	unsure	likely	very likely

6. How good or bad do you think this is, as a way to act?

1	2	3	4	5
very bad	bad	unsure	good	very good

7. If you acted this way, would your child talk back to the teacher again?

1	2	3	4	5
definitely	probably	maybe	probably not	definitely not

8. If you acted this way, how much would your child respect you?

1	2	3	4	5
very much	much	somewhat	only a little	not at all

9. How easy would it be for you to act like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very easy	kind of easy	unsure	kind of hard	very hard

10. How would you feel about yourself if you acted like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very good	good	unsure	bad	very bad

11. How much would other adults like you if they saw you acting like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very much	much	somewhat	only a little	not at all

Imagine instead that you tell your child, "I have not raised you to be disrespectful of the teacher!"

12. How likely would it be that you would act this way?

1	2	3	4	5
not at all likely	unlikely	unsure	likely	very likely

13. How good or bad do you think this is, as a way to act?

1	2	3	4	5
very bad	bad	unsure	good	very good

14. If you acted this way, would your child talk back to the teacher again?

1	2	3	4	5
definitely	probably	maybe	probably not	definitely not

15. If you acted this way, how much would your child respect you?

1	2	3	4	5
very much	much	somewhat	only a little	not at all

16. How easy would it be for you to act like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very easy	kind of easy	unsure	kind of hard	very hard

17. How would you feel about yourself if you acted like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very good	good	unsure	bad	very bad

18. How much would other adults like you if they saw you acting like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very much	much	somewhat	only a little	not at all

Imagine instead that you tell your child to write a letter to the teacher apologizing for talking back and being disrespectful.

19. How likely would it be that you would act this way?

1	2	3	4	5
not at all likely	unlikely	unsure	likely	very likely

20. How good or bad do you think this is, as a way to act?

1	2	3	4	5
very bad	bad	unsure	good	very good

21. If you acted this way, would your child talk back to the teacher again?

1	2	3	4	5
definitely	probably	maybe	probably not	definitely not

22. If you acted this way, how much would your child respect you?

1	2	3	4	5
very much	much	somewhat	only a little	not at all

23. How easy would it be for you to act like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very easy	kind of easy	unsure	kind of hard	very hard

24. How would you feel about yourself if you acted like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very good	good	unsure	bad	very bad

25. How much would other adults like you if they saw you acting like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very much	much	somewhat	only a little	not at all

Story 4

Imagine that you and your child are taking a walk outside. Other children (classmates) whom your child knows are playing together. Your child will not join them even though you encourage your child to do so.

1. How would you feel if your child acted this way?

1	2	3	4	5
very good		neutral		very bad, upset

2. Would you punish your child, and if so, how much would you punish him/her if he/she acted this way?

1	2	3	4	5
not at all		moderately		very sternly

3. If your child acted this way most of the time, how worried would you be that your child would grow up to have problems later on?

1	2	3	4	5
not at all		somewhat		very worried

4. What would be your most important goal in parenting in this situation?

1	2
Getting my child to stop misbehaving now	Making sure my child grows up to be a good person

If you were in this situation, there would be many things you could say or do. Imagine you push your child toward the other children.

5. How likely would it be that you would act this way?

1	2	3	4	5
not at all likely	unlikely	unsure	likely	very likely

6. How good or bad do you think this is, as a way to act?

1	2	3	4	5
very bad	bad	unsure	good	very good

7. If you acted this way, would your child join other children in playing?

1	2	3	4	5
definitely	probably	maybe	probably not	definitely not

8. If you acted this way, how much would your child respect you?

1	2	3	4	5
very much	much	somewhat	only a little	not at all

9. How easy would it be for you to act like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very easy	kind of easy	unsure	kind of hard	very hard

10. How would you feel about yourself if you acted like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very good	good	unsure	bad	very bad

11. How much would other adults like you if they saw you acting like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very much	much	somewhat	only a little	not at all

Imagine you said, "Do you want the other children to think you don't want to be part of their group?"

12. How likely would it be that you would act this way?

1	2	3	4	5
not at all likely	unlikely	unsure	likely	very likely

13. How good or bad do you think this is, as a way to act?

1	2	3	4	5
very bad	bad	unsure	good	very good

14. If you acted this way, would your child join other children in playing?

1	2	3	4	5
definitely	probably	maybe	probably not	definitely not

15. If you acted this way, how much would your child respect you?

1	2	3	4	5
very much	much	somewhat	only a little	not at all

16. How easy would it be for you to act like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very easy	kind of easy	unsure	kind of hard	very hard

17. How would you feel about yourself if you acted like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very good	good	unsure	bad	very bad

18. How much would other adults like you if they saw you acting like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very much	much	somewhat	only a little	not at all

Imagine instead that you explain to your child why you think it is important to play with the other children.

19. How likely would it be that you would act this way?

1	2	3	4	5
not at all likely	unlikely	unsure	likely	very likely

20. How good or bad do you think this is, as a way to act?

1	2	3	4	5
very bad	bad	unsure	good	very good

21. If you acted this way, would your child join other children in playing?

1	2	3	4	5
definitely	probably	maybe	probably not	definitely not

22. If you acted this way, how much would your child respect you?

1	2	3	4	5
very much	much	somewhat	only a little	not at all

23. How easy would it be for you to act like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very easy	kind of easy	unsure	kind of hard	very hard

24. How would you feel about yourself if you acted like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very good	good	unsure	bad	very bad

25. How much would other adults like you if they saw you acting like this?

1	2	3	4	5
very much	much	somewhat	only a little	not at all