

Reflections

Use this table to determine if your child is struggling for independence, or is afraid of the next step towards independence. Check off the behaviours you recognize in your child or teen.

<i>Symptoms of the Fear of Independence</i>		<i>Symptoms of the Struggle for Independence</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • needing parents at night • crying when parents leave • "you do it for me" • "I can't" • self-criticism • touchiness • babyish behaviour 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • negativism • changing their minds • refusing help • stubbornness • defiance and talking back • criticizing parents • shutting out family members • doing this to irritate you • arguing •
<i>Egocentric Behaviours</i>		<i>Children's Problems With Feelings</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demanding undue attention • refusing to share • cruelty to animals • cruelty to people • provoking and "bugging" • fighting and arguing • group cruelty to those who are different 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not knowing what is the matter • identifying feelings incorrectly • hurting others physically • hurting others verbally • wanting something right now • temper tantrums • moodiness, moping and sulking • touchiness

Normal children require long hours of work from their parents, through sickness and health. They are incredibly messy and can't clean up very well. They are amazingly noisy and forget to be quiet when we are resting. We must go through things over and over and over again with your children before they really get it. Children are self-centered, and they don't know how worn out we are. Children push limits a lot. And... they need positive attention from us, and lots of it.