



Is This Reasonable Adolescent Behavior?

Directions:

1. Read the situation you've been assigned.
2. Discuss whether the teenager's behavior seems reasonable. Base your thoughts on what you just learned about adolescent development.
3. Discuss the parent's reaction. How do you think this response will affect the closeness between parent and teen?
4. Come up with some more positive but realistic ways this parent might respond. (Consider responses that will have the most positive effect on parent-child connectedness.)

Situation 1: Tyree and his Parents

Tyree never likes to go to bed when he's supposed to. He's now 15 and his parents have told him that he's got to be in bed by 11:00pm. Tyree thinks this rule is ridiculous. He says that a lot of the good TV shows are just coming on at 11:00pm. Tyree used to oversleep sometimes, but in the last three months he has gotten up on time and his last report card was very good. He did this to prove that he's responsible. He asked his parents again if he could just go to sleep when he gets tired. He said he would take responsibility for getting up on time and keeping his grades up. They told him that they would not be responsible parents if they let him stay up after 11:00pm on school nights. They told him he could stay up as late as he wanted on Friday and Saturday night.

Situation 2: Tamika and her Grandmother

Tamika is 14. She has lived with her grandmother since she was five years old. Her grandmother is very strict and expects Tamika to follow her rules. They argue a lot about this. Tamika's grandmother has told her many times that she is not to walk down to the corner store. Today, when Tamika's grandmother got home from running errands, Tamika was nowhere to be found. Tamika came home a half an hour later with a bag of chips and a soda from the corner store. Her grandmother grounded her for a week and fussed the entire evening.

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Situation 3: Telephone English Lessons

Jamie (13-years old) was lying across his bed talking on the phone to his friend, Sean. His mom pushed the door open and said, "Jamie get off the phone and take the trash out." With a disgusted look, Jamie said, "Mom, do I have to do it now? I'm on the phone." "I could care less. Get your butt off the phone...now," his mom yelled. Jamie got off the phone and asked his mother why she had come into his room without knocking. She told him it was her door and she'll come in anytime she wants. Jamie said he always knocks on her door when it's closed. Before he could even finish the sentence his mom cut him off and told him to stop talking back to her. Later that evening, his mom had calmed down. Jamie was back on the phone telling Sean, "I ain't thinking about nothing you got to say." His mother smiled, pinched his cheek, and corrected him, "I'm **not** thinking about anything you **have** to say." Jamie just rolled his eyes.

Situation 4: Dad's Law

Robert will be 13 years old in a few months. His dad has always been very concerned about the way Robert dresses - especially for school. He has never bought Robert any baggy clothes and insists that he keep his shirts tucked in his pants neatly. Robert hates the way his dad makes him dress because the other kids are always teasing him. So when he gets to school, Robert pulls his shirt out. His dad goes crazy when Robert comes home looking sloppy. All Robert can say is, "It's not fair. It's not fair." His dad replies, "Life isn't fair." One day after dinner Robert's dad says, "I've been thinking that I've been kind of hard on you, son. You're getting older and I know you want to make more of your own decisions. On your 13th birthday I'm going to take you to Old Navy and let you buy some things you like. When we get to the store, I'm going to leave you completely alone while you pick out what you want and try it on. You can just let me know when you're ready to pay and I'll meet you at the cash register. The only rule is that you can't spend more than \$70."

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