

PEDAGOGICAL INPUT

for the adventure of family life



14_Children's behaviour always makes sense

Every human being faces a life-long conflict between pursuing his or her own interests and adapting to the community. Do I protect my integrity, i.e. my limits and needs, or do I cooperate with others and adapt?

Children are born as social, empathetic and cooperative beings.

It used to be thought that children didn't know this conflict between "fitting in" or "keeping within their own limits" and they were simply selfish. Today we know that even infants are interested in relationships through which they learn about themselves, others and the world. We know that children are empathetic and seismographically sensitive to and responsive to the feelings of those around them. If, for example, the small child is always crying and does not want to go to the day nursery when the mother is there, but goes without any problems with its father, the child may sense the mother's insecurity and doubts reflecting her concerns with its behaviour. The child brings to light what the mother senses but does not show.

Children always cooperate with their parents, even if we don't realise it.

There is direct cooperation, which means that the child adapts. For example: A mother is overwhelmed with her situation and has little energy left to pay attention to the child. When the child cooperates directly, it withdraws into itself and becomes unobtrusive, calm, and adjusted. By withdrawing, it doesn't want to further bother its mother.

50% of children cooperate directly, 50% inversely

In this case, the mirror-inverted cooperation is: The child acts out and makes demands of the mother all the more. With its difficult behaviour, it wants to draw the mother's attention to the fact that something is wrong in their relationship. This reaction means: If you don't pay attention to me, I'll call for it more often. It conveys to the mother: You have to do something and take care of yourself. The child works together with the mother. It lives out what the mother suppresses. If you interpret the child's behaviour in this way, then its behaviour makes sense. It alerts the mother to a difficult condition.

Children want to feel valuable in relationships.

That's why they always work with their parents, even if it's not always easy to see. Children always do what is best for the family system and react to their parents' unconscious feelings, values and behaviour patterns.

When families suffer from daily power struggles with the children, one wonders: Where is the "will to work together"? Power struggles and refusal have one main reason: A profound relationship conflict in the family that needs to be discovered.

When children act out, they are like a fire alarm.

When a child screams, you should look for the fire in the family, not just want to turn off the alarm. Children want to cooperate, they want nothing more than to please their parents. To do this, they must be treated with respect and their personality and individuality must be recognised and respected. Children should be supported to feel their own limits and to say "no." It should also be seen how often they cooperate, regardless of whether they can cope with stress in the morning or wait at the checkout without complaining.

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