



Sure Start Children's Centres
Hucknall

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1-2-3 Magic

Week 4

Commissioned by:

Delivered by:

The Six Kinds Of Testing And Manipulation

1. Badgering

“Please, please, please”

“Why? Why? Why?”

“Mum, mum, mum”

“In other words – give me what I want and I’ll shut up!”

Particularly difficult to handle when done in public.
The basic element is repetition

2. Intimidation

Temper tantrums/obvious aggressive attacks

Younger children may not have the words yet so throw themselves on the floor, bang head, scream etc.

Older children have better language skills may argue, swear etc.

Should be controlled by age 5-6 before child becomes too powerful

3. Threat

“I am going to run away”

“I will never speak to you again”

In other words – “Do what I want or something bad will happen”

4. Martyrdom

Crying, pouting, looking sad etc.

Saying: “No-one loves me” “You like her more than me”

Doing: Not eat dinner, stare out of window for an hour

Goal: Make Parent feel guilty

5. Butter Up

Child tries to make you feel good so you will feel bad if you discipline him:

“Can I have some crisps please? I promise I will eat dinner and won’t even ask for dessert”

“If you buy me a computer I promise never to ask for anything ever again”

Be aware that sometimes it is a legitimate deal: “If I tidy my room can my friend come over?”

6. Physical Tactics

Physical attack/break something/run away
More common in smaller children who don’t have the language skills and children who struggle to manage their emotions (ADHD)

Common Dynamic

You are making me feel uncomfortable by not giving me what I want

Now I am going to do it to you

Now we are both uncomfortable - “You call off your dogs and I will call of mine”

If you give in, who is in charge?

The Child!

They Will Try!!!

- Either at the start or later they will try to test and manipulate
- They are seeking power and control
- Stay firm, if you budge or slacken they have you in the palm of their hands and if it works once they will try again and again

The £64,000 Question



- Does your child have a favourite tactic?
- If you said **yes** that is not a good sign. It means this strategy most likely **works** for your child!
- What does “it works” mean?

Lying

There are two kinds of lying:

1. To impress others and build one's ego
2. To get out of or avoid trouble

Lying

- Don't treat it as if they have robbed a bank. It's perfectly natural to try and get away with something. It's not a good thing but it's not the end of the world – remember our no emotion rule
- **If you don't know the truth then**
 - Don't corner the child and have a massive fight about it because he/she is probably going to lie to you to get out of trouble
 - ✓ Do ask for the truth and accept what he says. If you find out later that he/she lied then give a minor/major consequence.
- **If you do know the truth then**
 - ✓ Tell him calmly that you know what happened and why he/she might try to lie and then give a suitable consequenceOr
 - ✓ Tell them you want to talk about what happened today but not right now – in about 15 minutes, and mention that you have spoken to ??????

They will either admit it or accuse you of not trusting them. Manage the testing – temper no.2 – by counting or ignoring if appropriate. End with “I'm sure you'll do better next time.

Lying

Lying is obviously not good, but it isn't the end of the world. Most people, let alone children, will tell a few 'porkies' in their lives. It doesn't mean that they don't love you or will go to prison when they are older.

The more emotion you display, the more it becomes a bigger problem. Frequent extreme emotional reactions combined with badgering and cornering can help children to become better liars.