

Adultism and Behavior Labeling

If an adult is reinforced for behaving appropriately, we call it RECOGNITION.

If a child is reinforced for behaving appropriately, we call it BRIBERY.

If an adult laughs, we call it SOCIALIZING.

If a child laughs, we call it MISBEHAVING.

If an adult writes in a book, we call it DOODLING.

If a child writes in a book, we call it DESTROYING PROPERTY.

If an adult sticks to something, we call it PERSEVERANCE.

If a child sticks to something, we call it STUBBORNNESS.

If an adult seeks help, we call it CONSULTING.

If a child seeks help, we call it WHINING.

If an adult is not paying attention, we call it PREOCCUPATION.

If a child is not paying attention, we call it DISTRACTIBILITY.

If an adult forgets something, we call it ABESENTMINDNESS.

If a child forgets something, we call it ADD (or other diagnosis.)

If an adult tells their side of the story, we call it CLARIFICATION.

If a child tells their side of the story, we call it TALKING BACK.

If an adult raises their voice in anger, we call it MAINTAINING CONTROL.

If a child raises their voice in anger, we call it a TEMPER TANTRUM.

If an adult hits a child, we call it DISCIPLINE.

If a child hits a child, we call it FIGHTING.

If an adult behaves in an unusual way, we call them UNIQUE.

If a child behaves in an unusual way, we refer them for PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION.

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