

# Most Misbehavior in Children Only Normal Conduct, Psychologist Says

Editor's note: This is the second of three dispatches in which Dr. Fritz Redl, a leading psychologist, discusses the problem of child misbehavior. Today he tells how a parent can distinguish between "normal" and "neurotic" misbehavior.

**By LOUIS CASSELS**  
**United Press Correspondent**  
 Washington—All children misbehave. Most misbehavior is entirely normal. Once in a great while, misbehavior is the surface symptom of emotional illness which requires professional treatment.

Unfortunately for parents it is not always easy to distinguish neurotic conduct from normal mischief. But there are significant differences which can be spotted.

For this, you have the word of Dr. Fritz Redl, whom many regard as the world's leading authority on "disturbed" children. Redl is chief of the laboratory for child research at the National Institute of Mental Health.

"The first thing I would impress upon parents," he said in an interview, "is that you cannot judge the seriousness of a child's misbehavior by the degree to which it happens to annoy you.

**Normal vs. Abnormal**

"Some of the most 'normal' things that children do are a great nuisance to adults. On the other hand, conduct that is very

easy on grown-up nerves—such as sitting quietly in a corner—may under some circumstances be indicative of severe neurotic problems."

Redl said it is impossible to draw up two lists of behavior traits and say "normal children do this, sick children do that."

"It is not what a child does,

but when and how and why he does it that is the tip-off to emotional illness," he said.

"There is usually a compulsive quality about the misbehavior of the disturbed child. I call it 'driveness.' He approaches trouble as if he were being driven into it, tense and unhappy. He never derives the relaxed enjoy-

ment which a healthy child finds in a mischievous prank."

For example, Redl said, most young children who are on the verge of misbehavior can be checked by diverting their attention to something else. But the "driven" child is likely to be "undivertable." He pushes headlong into trouble no matter how

many distractions you wave at him.

**Overreacting Is Natural**

Another test is "the degree to which a child's behavior is way out of proportion to the thing which sets it off." A certain amount of "over-reacting" is natural to children. But it is cause for concern when "a small spark

invariably starts a large fire," as in the child who chronically flies into rages over trivial disappointments.

"Age-appropriateness" is a third gauge of normal vs. neurotic conduct. It is normal for a 3-year-old to ignore the difference between fantasy and fact; it is not a trait which you expect to find in an 8-year-old.

Similarly, it is normal for a boy in early adolescence to form intimate friendships with other boys "as a defense against being with girls in situations which cause him to panic." But you might begin to worry if unvarying preference for male companionship persisted into the later teens.

Children mature at different rates, and you should allow considerable latitude in determining whether a child's conduct is appropriate to his age, Redl warned.

He urged similar caution in applying the other tests. A perfectly normal child will, on some occasions, act with an intensity

that a worried parent might consider neurotic.

The thing to look for is not some isolated "symptom" but a persistent pattern of extreme conduct that cannot be "rationally related" to the child's age or environment that seems to "come from some force within the child" which he is unable to control.

If you find that, or think you do, arrange through your family doctor, the school, or a clinic for professional diagnosis. It may prove your fears unfounded, or it may start your child on the way to needed help.

Tomorrow — Do's and don'ts in discipline.

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## Registrations Open For Adult Classes

Registrations still are being accepted for insurance and gift wrapping classes at Medford High school sponsored by the school system's adult education program.

The insurance class meets at 7 p.m. each Wednesday in room 242 at Medford High, and the gift wrapping class starts at 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the high school.

Gordon Mackenzie is instructor for the insurance class, and Mrs. Otto Ewaldsen will instruct the gift wrapping class. Those planning to attend the gift wrapping class should bring tissue paper, gift wrapping paper, "crinkle" type ribbon, scissors, scotch tape, glue and an assortment of boxes.

Registration for both classes may be made at the class session tomorrow night, according to school officials.

## Customer's Vocalizing May Result in Cabaret Tax Being Levied on Tavern

**By DOC QUIGG**  
**United Press Correspondent**  
 New York—There is a tavern in the town—and there my true love sits him down—and drinks his wine as merry as can be.

But if he breaks into song, tsk, tsk, the joint may have to pay federal cabaret tax—even if he is just a customer and is singing such a customer-type melody as the old-timer quoted above.

There are so many alarming items abroad nowadays that this one—a shocker to all us golden voiced tavern singers—has been generally ignored. And yet, here it is, as quoted from the middle of a long tax roundup in the Wall Street Journal:

**Songsters Taxable**

"Impromptu songsters of tavern customers may constitute entertainment for purposes of federal cabaret tax enforcement,

in the view of the Philadelphia Internal Revenue District."

The item added that the tax sleuths there desire to collect the 20 per cent excise tax from small neighborhood bars, many of which feature soloists who are patrons.

As a man with an uncontrollable talent for belting, and a voice loud enough to be heard from here to Schenectady, your correspondent herewith enters a vigorous protest against being shushed from mellow song in the fear that the place will be taxed as a cabaret.

Closed, maybe, for noisily laying waste to the quiet of the night—that I can see happening: But being taxed for furnishing entertainment? Any tax sleuth who contends that the usual impromptu songfest at the usual saloon is entertainment for anybody but the singers has no respect for the meaning of words. **Usually Empties Joint**

Usually the impromptu vocalizing has the effect of emptying

the joint of all other customers,

of causing windows to slam and dogs to howl for blocks around.

It is recorded that Nikita S. Khrushchev, in response to a compelling lyric urge from within, rendered a solo at a Moscow party one night last week. None of the dispatches of the culture-heavy correspondent present at the party described the head man's impromptu effort as entertainment.

As of the moment of going to press, Khrushchev is still in office. But if he will listen to a word of advice from the voice of experience—desist from such singing, old man, if you want to stay where you are; if you keep on, there is no other way but down. People will stand only so much suffering before they rebel.

Chicago—Mrs. Marcella Solomon asked her radio-dispatcher husband Saturday to bring his taxi, but a stork-dispatched baby girl was born in a neighbor's car before he could arrive.

## Wall Street Vows Not To Let Khrushchev Write Market Letter

**By ELMER C. WALZER**  
**United Press Financial Editor**  
 New York—Here's a suggestion for a Near Year's resolution that comes from Wall Street's canyons:

"We resolve never again to let Mr. Khrushchev write our market letters for us."

The Market has had several jolts from the Russians threat of war to help Syria

lick Turkey, and those Sputniks, to mention a few.

The Market community has been talking more about Russia than it has about anything else, including golf in Westchester county.

The idea for the foregoing resolution is taken from a statement by J. C. Luitweiler, economist for Hayden, Stone & Co. who advises:

"Use time-tested standards to judge investment values and make decisions to invest or not to invest without the benefit of Mr. Khrushchev as our market letter writer."

**Criticizes Depression Talk**

Luitweiler also criticizes those who are "playing into Russia's hands by talking ourselves into a depression and undermining each other's confidence in ourselves and our government."

Another thing that is getting market attention is the tax problem and here also Russia enters the discussion.

Conservative Wall Streeters favor cutting non-defense government spending to the point where additional sums can be spent on defense with enough left over to make a possible tax cut.

The Street calls attention in this respect to a statement in the current letter of the first National Bank of New York which says:

"Reducing expenditures and taxes is the way to pare the national debt. Well-designed tax rate reductions encouraging people to earn and report taxable income, rarely cost as much in revenue loss as they are calculated to do.

**Calls for Lower Taxes**

"It was the experience of the 1954 tax and expenditure reductions that lower taxes reinvigorated the economy, rebalanced the budget, and stabilized the dollar. The experiment needs repeating."

Postponing tax relief, the bank letter states, "is another way to give comfort to the Marxists."

Wall Street generally would welcome tax relief, but the rank and file of traders, despite what the conservative experts say, hold that inflation is a thing that puts stocks up even if it never has been fully proved that stocks are a hedge against inflation.

## Probe Seeks Cause of Blast Wrecking Plane

San Juan, Puerto Rico—Investigators sought to determine today the cause of an explosion which destroyed a 10-engine B36 bomber of the Strategic Air Command at Ramo Field near Aguadilla Saturday.

The explosion occurred while the engines were being warmed up for take-off. It touched off a fire which destroyed the \$3,400,000 plane.

The Air Force said one crewman was injured. The plane normally carries a crew of 16.

Chicago—Arthur C. Tancil, 42, said that when he helped deliver his wife's third child, his nerves were kept under control by his wife's soothing: "Keep calm, now, and take it easy."

## Asia Need Benefits Of Democratic Way

San Francisco—Half the world cannot move around in ox-carts, while the other half rides in Cadillacs. Indian Woman Diplomat Madam Pandit told the U.S. Commission for UNESCO at its final session here.

Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, High Commissioner for India in the United Kingdom and sister of Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, addressed the UNESCO commission conference delegates at the Curran theater here.

The peoples of Asia "need to see and taste and feel on their bodies some of the benefits of democracy," Mrs. Pandit said, adding that "their chief hope for meeting their urgent material needs is through industrialization."

Discussing the problems of industrializing a country like India, Mrs. Pandit said that private enterprise alone "cannot possibly meet the requirements."

There has been little in the history of South and Southeast Asia "with its long colonial past, which could inspire faith in the gains to be derived from total dependence upon private enterprise."



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