

Taking Things - Stealing

Syllabus

Introduction

Expert - Dr. Richard Delaney, author, lecturer, and practicing psychologist.

This course presents foster, kinship, and adoptive parents' stories about their child's stealing behavior, provides insights into the most common possible reasons for their child's problem behavior, as well as steps parents can take to deal with their child's stealing.

Exercise: Taking Things Basics

An exercise on the basics of taking things.

Reasons for Taking Things

Common reasons for taking things:

1. Taking things can be typical or average behavior in children or teens.
2. Taking things can be related to intellectual disability.
3. Taking things can be related to a history of trauma.
4. Taking things can be related to other social or psychiatric problems.

Taking Things from Stores

Ramone, 10, often shoplifts at the same store. Dr. Delaney interviews Ramone's adoptive parents, Gwen and Ron, about his shoplifting.

- Learned shoplifting from birth parents
- Feels responsible for meeting his own needs

Exercise: Ramone's Reasons for Taking Things

An exercise helps viewers determine Ramone's reasons for taking things.

Dr. Delaney concludes that Ramone's taking things is related to a history of trauma.

Next Steps for Ramone

Dr. Delaney provides next steps for Gwen and Ron to take with Ramone:

- Coach him to express his needs and wants
- Build his confidence in his ability to earn things

Taking Things from Grandpa

Chelisa, 6, takes her grandpa's things from around the house. Dr. Delaney interviews Chelisa's grandparents, Marcus and Annie, about her stealing.

- Emotional/social age is lower than chronological age; doesn't recognize ownership
- Not allowed to express her needs or wants around her birth father
- Seeks attention, positive or negative, from father figure

Exercise: Chelisa's Reasons for Taking Things

An exercise helps viewers determine Chelisa's reasons for taking things.

Dr. Delaney concludes that Chelisa's taking things is typical or average behavior and related to a history of trauma.

Next Steps for Chelisa

Dr. Delaney provides next steps for Marcus and Annie to take with Chelisa:

- Reassure her, using words and actions
- Coach her to put her feelings of anxiety and fear into words

Taking Things from Loved Ones

Tyrone, 12, takes things from loved ones from home to school. Dr. Delaney interviews Tyrone's foster parents, Bernice and Eugene, about his stealing.

- Mild intellectual disability; has difficulty generalizing and learning from consequences
- Deep anxiety about being separated from loved ones

Exercise: Tyrone's Reasons for Taking Things

An exercise helps viewers determine Tyrone's reasons for taking things.

Dr. Delaney concludes that Tyrone's taking things is related to intellectual disability and a history of trauma.

Next Steps for Tyrone

Dr. Delaney provides next steps for Bernice and Eugene to take with Tyrone:

- Increase his general sense of security
- Build his confidence in stable relationships
- Develop his skills for coping with anxiety with the help of a professional

Taking & Stockpiling Things

Jason, 7, collects things, sometimes taking things from others. Dr. Delaney interviews Jason's adoptive mother, Faye, about his taking and stockpiling behavior.

- Hoarding disorder; driven to collect things and can't let go of the things he collects
- Lacks the ability to stop himself from taking things without help
- Mother collected things, suggesting a family history of hoarding

Exercise: Jason's Reasons for Taking Things

An exercise helps viewers determine Jason's reasons for taking things.

Dr. Delaney concludes that Jason's taking things is related to psychiatric problems and a history of trauma.

Next Steps for Jason

Dr. Delaney provides next steps for Faye to take with Jason:

- Arrange a mental health evaluation for him
- Find him a psychologist specializing in cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT)

Conclusion

Summary of key points.