

Tattling Problems

Remember:

Children today are faced with many difficult challenges that were not faced by children a generation ago. Because of that, traditional responses to tattling, such as ignoring or turning children away are no longer appropriate. Children must feel free to tell trusted adults when someone is hurting or bothering them or when someone is in danger. When children are older they need to tell adults if someone is using drugs or carrying a weapon.

Solving and Observing Tactics:

Does the child tell on others in order to draw attention to him or herself?

Is the child telling you about behaviors of others because you sometimes want to know?

Does the child appear nervous about the actions of others or concerned for their safety?

Does the child tell about rule infractions to see if the rules are the same for all or if rules will be enforced?

Has the child tried to resolve the situation on his/ her own but has been unsuccessful?

Does the child tell on others in order to make himself or herself look better; Does he/she try to look like “the good one” by pointing out the misdeeds of others?

Does the child tell on others to get them into trouble or for power?

Reasons a Child May Tattle.

He/She is worried about the actions of another child.

He/She is seeking affirmation or praise for staying within the rules.

He/She has been unsuccessful in solving a problem on his own.

He/She wants to call attention to himself.

He/She thinks you want to know.

He/She is trying to “look good.”

He/She seems to want to get another child “in trouble.”

Children Sometimes Need To Tell Things To A Trusted Adult.

When people are getting hurt.

If someone is hurting the child and he/she is unable to stop that person.

If the child is being touched in ways that make him/her feel uncomfortable.

When the child knows someone is using drugs.

When the child knows someone is carrying a weapon.

Condensed from [So This Is Normal Too?](#)

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