

## A Memorandum from the Child with Behavior Disorders



Very good reading to helping to understand Scouts with behavior disorders.

**Don't spoil me.** I know quite well that I ought not to have all I ask for. I am only testing you.

**Don't be afraid to be firm with me.** I prefer it. It lets me know where I stand.

**Don't use force with me.** It teaches me that power is all that counts. I will respond more readily to being led.

**Don't be inconsistent.** That confuses me and makes me try hard to get away with everything I can.

**Don't make promises.** You may not be able to keep them, which would discourage my trust in you.

**Don't fall for my provocations when I say and do things just to upset you.** Then I'll try for more such "victories."

**Don't be too upset when I say I hate you.** I don't mean it. I just want you to feel sorry for what you've done to me.

**Don't make me feel smaller than I am.** I'll make up for it by behaving like a big shot.

**Don't do things for me that I can do myself.** It makes me feel like a baby, and I may continue to put you in my service.

**Don't let my bad habits get me a lot of attention.** It only encourages me to continue them.

**Don't correct me in front of people.** I'll pay much more attention if you talk quietly in private.

**Don't try to discuss my behavior in the heat of a conflict.** For some reason, my hearing isn't very good at this time and my cooperation is even worse. It's all right to take the action required, but let's not talk about it until later.

**Don't try to preach to me.** You'd be surprised how well I already know what's right and what's wrong.

**Don't make me feel that my mistakes are sins.** I have to learn to make mistakes without feeling that I'm no good.

**Don't nag.** If you do, I shall have to protect myself by appearing deaf.

**Don't demand explanations for my wrong behavior.** I really don't know why I did it.

**Don't tax my honesty too much.** I'm easily frightened into telling lies.

**Don't forget that I love experimentation.** I learn from it, so please put up with it.

**Don't protect me from consequences.** I need learn from experiences.

**Don't take too much notice of all my small ailments.** I may learn to enjoy poor health if it gets me attention.

**Don't put me off when I ask honest questions.** If you do, you'll find that I stop asking and seek my information elsewhere.

**Don't answer silly or meaningless questions.** I just want to keep you busy with me.

**Don't ever suggest that you're perfect or infallible.** It gives me too much to live up to.

**Don't ever think that it's beneath your dignity to apologize to me.** An honest apology makes me feel surprisingly warm towards you.

**Don't worry about the little time we spend together.** It's how we spend it that counts.

**Don't let my fears arouse your anxiety.** Then I'll become more afraid. Show me courage.

**Don't forget that I can't thrive without lots of understanding and encouragement.** But I don't need to tell you that, do I? Treat me the way you treat your friends. Then I'll be your friend, too.