

If a child is very stubborn, he may not be beyond control, but has just figured you out. Boys can do this to their mothers as early as 6 or 7 years old. When the mother has shown signs of weakness (inconsistency, frustration, or emotional breakdown) during previous conflicts, the child calculates that he can eventually break her down. He makes a game out of resistance, hoping to play on the mother's weakness. The solution to this is for the mother to realize what is happening, make up her mind to conquer her weakness for the child's sake, and to stand firm in the conflict ahead. She must change her child's opinion of her and make him realize that she will not be intimidated. The father should also step in and make sure the child knows that he will not be allowed to win over his mother.

Child Training — Control and Teaching (1990.06.12-T01)

Don't provoke your child. How do you provoke him?

By being inconsistent;

By not being diligent;

By not having your spirit under control;

Disciplining by mood.

Disciplining by mood makes us inconsistent and not diligent. Diligence is a man's most precious possession, better than wisdom and knowledge. A child who does not know any specific boundaries will rebel out of frustration.

Child Training — The Soul's Authority (1991.03.20-T01)

Default training also occurs when parents do not enforce even the standards by which they live. This may be because the parents are preoccupied with their own problems or duties, or are weary of the child's need for constant correction and just plain laziness. How often do you allow your child to get away with an action or an attitude for which you would normally correct him? *Training requires consistency, and consistency*

*pays!* The more consistent you are, the sooner your child will become trained and the less frequently you will have to correct him.

It is vital that a child learns to trust your word. If follow-through is inconsistent, a child will make a game out of disobeying. If there is even the least chance that there will be no enforcement for not following instructions, he will play a game of “Russian Roulette.” It is amazing what a child will try to get away with to exert his will or fulfill his own desires.

Negative training results from parents’ tolerance of their child’s negative behavior and how they inadvertently train him to respond to their instructions. A child who is not trained to follow instruction promptly and correctly the first time has been allowed to exert his own will over that of his parents (or other authority). Parents who train in this way will be erratic in their enforcement. Sometimes they will allow their instruction to go totally unheeded, thus giving little value to their words. At other times, they will crack down inconsistently after the first, second, or third declaration, thus being unfair with their power.

Child Training II, Part 7 — Negative Training (1997.00.00-T10)

Discipline, in order to be effective, must be consistent, controlled severity and applied early in life, and immediately after an offense (Pr 22:6)

Child Training B (1985.01.00-T01)

Somewhere I remember hearing that the fruit of inconsistent discipline (one standard from one parent, a lesser standard from the other, or sometimes being corrected for a misdeed and sometimes not) is this:

- 1) Although the child is disciplined, he is not cleansed. He has a residue of guilt.
- 2) The child does not welcome discipline, and will try to avoid it. This produces deceit.

- 3) The child does not have a strong conscience. He has learned that what is acceptable is not an absolute standard, but rather the function of what your mood is and who you are with.
- 4) He lacks respect for the authority that is inconsistent, and possibly for authority in general.