There are many reasons why children misbehave. Following are a few of the most common reasons and some suggestions for what you can do to help.

**Children Are Children**

Children are not little adults. They think differently and childhood is a time to practice. Wouldn’t it be a boring world if children behaved just like adults? Their creativity, enthusiasm, and yes, even their energy would be missed.

**Children Need Attention**

It is true that children need attention. In order for them to grow and thrive they must receive lots of it! If they don’t receive positive attention, they may do something unacceptable just to get a reaction.

**Children are Egocentric and Impulsive**

Children have difficulty seeing the world from another point of view. Their concept of waiting and sharing is limited and still evolving. They may not be able to think things through before acting. For example, they have to be reminded not to run into the street after a ball.

**Children Experience Stress**

Like adults, children experience stress in their lives. If can come from big things like divorce, a new baby in the family or a move to another town. Or it can come from small daily occurrences. Things like transitions from one activity to another, waiting, and sharing or taking turns can cause stress in children.

**Children Don't Know Expectations**

Children operate within a limited framework of understanding and sometimes they forget or don’t know what is acceptable. It may be obvious to you that they might suffer a serious injury from bouncing on the bed, but not to them. They need frequent guidance and reminders concerning behavior.

**Children Test Limits**

Children are constantly testing limits to see how far they can stretch the old apron strings. They really want boundaries to help them feel safe, but that doesn’t mean they won't keep testing!

**Children Receive Confusing Messages**

If children are treated inconsistently by adult, if the rules are always changing, they get confused and their behavior shows it. Be consistent!