

When Summer Boredom Surfaces and Your Child Exhibits Negative Behaviors, Ask, “Are We Over-indulging this Child?”

A large number of Americans believe we are raising a generation of over-indulged children. We all want our children to grow up to be adults who are good citizens with positive values. If your child exhibits demanding and unpleasant behaviors, particularly as summer time boredom surfaces, you may want to ask the question, “Are we over-indulging this child?” Keep in mind that there are three basic ways parents over-indulge children:

Too many things

Too little structure

Over-nurture

Consider the following:

Does the situation:

- Hinder the child from learning tasks that support his/her development and learning at this age?
- Give a disproportionate amount of family resources to meet the wants of one or more children?
- Meet the adult’s need more than the child?(If you are giving your child too much or not putting necessary structures in places because of how your childhood was, think again if this is truly what your child needs or what you want).
- Does the child’s behavior potentially harm others, the society or planet in some way?(Allowing children to throw trash on the ground or out the window, stealing or making light of them cheating is not helping them to learn to be productive adults; permitting alcohol/drug use, etc.)

Resource book: “How Much is Enough?” Jean Clarke