



**THE CRUCIAL Cs © AND RUDOLF DREIKURS' 4 SHORT-RANGE GOALS OF MISBEHAVIOR**  
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Child's Belief	Child Feels	Child's Negative Goal	Adult Feels	Adult's Impulse	Child's Response to Correction	Crucial Cs	Constructive Alternatives	Child's Belief	Child Feels	Child's Positive Goal
I only count when I'm being noticed	insecure alienated	ATTENTION	irritated annoyed	REMIND What again?	"temporarily" stops	CONNECT	Replace negative attention with positive attention. Plan activities together. Don't ignore the child; ignore misbehavior. Teach self-sufficiency.	I belong	secure	COOPERATION
My strength is in showing you: You can't make me or You can't stop me	inadequate dependent others are in control	POWER	angry challenged	FIGHT I insist that you do as I say	misbehavior intensifies	CAPABLE	Don't try to win. Give opportunity and choices so child can display power constructively. Maintain friendly attitude.	I can do it	competent self control	SELF-RELIANCE
I knew that you were against me No one really likes me. I'll show you how it feels	insignificant	REVENGE Get back Get even	hurt, or wants to punish	PUNISH How could you do this to me? us? them? I'll teach you a lesson.	wants to get even makes self disliked	COUNT	Avoid anger and hurt feelings. Maintain appreciation in relationship. Offer chances to help. Seek support and help in identifying positives. (Don't give up.)	I matter	significant valuable	CONTRIBUTION
I can't do anything right so I won't try. If I don't try my failures won't be so obvious.	inferior useless hopeless	AVOIDANCE Display of Inadequacy	despair I give up hopeless	GIVE UP It's no use.	passive, no change more hopeless  displays inadequacies	COURAGE	Notice only strengths and ignore the negative. Set up steady exposure to manageable tasks that have a guarantee of success. No criticism.	I can handle what comes	hopeful willing to try	RESILIENCY

**REMEMBER:** Misbehavior is a symptom of the child's discouragement about being able to feel the CRUCIAL Cs  
Use encouragement and teach through natural and logical consequences. Consider and agree on choices together.

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