

The Bad Attitude Intelligence Test

Just how much do you know about bad attitudes and how to change them? Answer the following questions true or false. The results may surprise you.

1. Your child's attitudes are predetermined at birth.
True____ False____
2. Your child's attitudes cannot be changed.
True____ False____
3. Your attitude has a lot with your child's attitude.
True____ False____
4. If your child is smart and gets good grades, he's likely to have a good attitude.
True____ False____
5. Being affluent and having a higher education has little to do with your child's good or bad attitude.
True____ False____
6. A bad attitude is just a phase. Let it go—your kid will outgrow it.
True____ False____
7. Parents have more influence on their kids' attitudes than their peers, the media, and school.
True____ False____
8. Your child's attitude is really at the center of her personality, so if you try to change it, you're destroying who she really is.
True____ False____
9. No matter how much pressure kids face today, it's not okay to ease their stresses by doing some tough stuff for them.
True____ False____
10. After age eleven years old, there's not much you can do about your kid's attitude; it's set.
True____ False____

Borba,Michelle.Don'tGiveMeThatAttitude!.SanFrancisco:JohnWiley&Sons,2004.

Here are the answers with some explanation.
Check out your bad attitude intelligence score.

10 correct = A+ Excellent!

8 correct = B Pretty good

6 correct = C Average; you've got some work to do.

5 or fewer = F You're in trouble; commit this book to memory.

1. False. Although some attitudes may be influenced by biological factors, most are learned.
2. False. Most attitudes can be changed by using the proven, research-based interventions in this book. Long-term commitment is necessary for meaningful change and permanent attitude change. There's no doubt about it: parenting is hard work.
3. True. That old mantra, "attitudes are better caught than taught," is 100 percent correct. Your kids are watching and copying everything you do, even stuff you're not aware of. So watch out, and be ready for change yourself.
4. False. Don't count on it. There's not much connection between your kid's school smarts and having a positive attitude. You have to nurture your child's learning as well as his character. Each is a separate entity.
5. True. Being affluent and having a good education is no guarantee that your kid won't be spoiled, self-centered, rude, or insensitive. In fact, it might be just the opposite.
6. False. Don't wait a moment before putting a halt to your kid's bad attitude. The longer you wait, the tougher it will be to change.
7. True. You have greater influence over your child's attitude than anything or anyone else. Use your power wisely, and don't blame outside influences.
8. False. It's not my intention to help you change your child's personality or temperament. But it is your job as a parent to stop your kid from being selfish, narrow-minded, and noncompliant, and having other bad attitudes that lead to weak character and poor moral intelligence.
9. True. One of your more important roles as a parent is to help your child become independent, self-reliant, and resourceful. Always rescuing and handling your child's problems creates a dependent kid who has trouble coping with the realities of life.
10. False. It's never too late to change bad attitudes. It may get harder as kids get older and more set in their ways, but that is no excuse. Plenty of older kids make big changes in their attitudes, and yours will be no exception.