

BEHAVIOUR LENS versus CONNECTION LENS

Two ways of understanding the same moment

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WHEN A CHILD SHOUTS OR SWEARS

**"They're so disrespectful."
"They always try to control everything."
"They just want attention."**

**"Something has overwhelmed them."
"This looks like dysregulation."
"How do I help them feel safe enough to reset?"**

WHEN A CHILD REFUSES SCHOOL

**"They're lazy."
"They don't care about their future."
"They're manipulating me."**

**"What is making school feel unsafe or unmanageable?"
"Is anxiety driving this?"
"How do we support first and then build expectations?"**

WHEN A CHILD LIES

**"They can't be trusted."
"They're sneaky."
"They're choosing to deceive."**

**"Are they scared of getting into trouble?"
"Are they trying to avoid shame?"
"How safe do they feel telling the truth?"**

AFTER AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR

**"They have to learn this is not acceptable."
"They need to know I am in charge."**

**"Safety first. Then repair."
"What happened before this?"
"How do we rebuild connection as well as set limits?"**

Be firm about behaviour. Be soft about the child.

**Some behaviours need clear limits.
Hitting. Swearing. Breaking things. Refusing reasonable boundaries.
These actions cannot be ignored.**

**But the child is more than their behaviour.
You can stop the behaviour without shaming the child.
You can hold a boundary without withdrawing warmth.
You can correct firmly and still stay connected.**

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