

Listening to Reason

Identify a reason or reasons that might motivate the youngster to create and tell each typical lie stated in the left-hand column. In the last column, identify parental responses that might deal effectively with the lying.

Typical Lie	Possible Reason	Appropriate Parental Response
<p>1. When Jamie's asked by his peers why he's in care, he says it's because his parents were killed in a car wreck.</p>	<p>Denial Fantasy Shame</p>	<p>Use active listening to acknowledge the child's discomfort with his situation. Use <i>exploring alternatives</i> to help the child find ways to feel more comfortable in his new environment.</p>
<p>2. An 8-yr. old recently freed for adoption told others that she's going home to her real parents next week.</p>		
<p>3. You overheard your 15 yr. old daughter tell her friends that you let her drink beer at home.</p>		

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Typical Lie	Possible Reason	Appropriate Parental Response
<p>4. 16 yr. old son, Joe, is 2 hrs. late coming home. His friend's mother just called to see if her son, Larry, was at your place, where he said he'd be. Upon returning, with glassy eyes and dilated pupils, Joe says he spent the night at Larry's, eating pizza and watching TV.</p>		
<p>5. 6 yr. old Maggie frequently takes things that belong to other people, e.g., loose change on the dresser, a friend's little toy, and hides them. When asked if she took these things, she says, "No." If you persist, she cries and clams up.</p>		
<p>6. Someone calls on the phone for the oldest child in the family. Although Josie is at home, the younger child tells the caller that Josie's not there and hangs up.</p>		