Caught!

Below are four stories. Please read each and answer the questions that follow.

Lindsey

Eight-year-old Lindsey takes change from her foster parents' dresser without asking and buys candy, which she distributes to other children in her new school. She has been with this family for three months and is generally cooperative. Her school performance is not "up to her potential," and she is having a difficult time making new friends. She is very sensitive, cries easily when she senses disapproval, and seems lonely.



b. What does Lindsey's stealing indicate about her self-concept and essential connections?

c. What responses by the foster parents would best meet the needs underlying Lindsey's behavior?

PROACTIVE RESPONSES TO STEALING ILINC

Aleesha

Three-and-one-half-year-old Aleesha, in her adoptive home for six months, has been bringing home small objects from day care, for example, little dolls, small plastic animals that are part of a set, and crayons. Her adoptive mom has returned the items without confronting Aleesha, hoping she'll just stop on her own. Recently, after Aleesha visited a friend, she came home with two of the friend's small dolls, which she proceeded to play with in her room. Asked where she got them, Aleesha responded, "Carrie gave them to me." Further questioning revealed that Aleesha actually took the dolls without anyone's knowledge. She said that the dolls were just lying around, and that Carrie has *lots* of dolls, so nobody would care anyway.

a. What is (are) the possible reason(s) Aleesha steals?

b. What does Aleesha's stealing indicate about her self-concept and essential connections?

c. What responses by the adoptive parents would best meet the needs underlying Aleesha's behavior?

PROACTIVE RESPONSES TO STEALING ILINC

Lucy

Fifteen-year-old Lucy came into care with a "dynamite" wardrobe. Growing up in a profoundly neglectful home, Lucy has always taken care of herself and is extremely independent, almost to the point of keeping herself isolated from her foster family. On a recent shopping trip to get school clothes for the whole family, Lucy was given \$75 and allowed to go off on her own, as she requested. Later, her foster mother noticed that the price tags on the clothes Lucy brought home totaled \$155.

a. What is (are) the possible reason(s) Lucy steals?

b. What does Lucy's stealing reveal about her self-concept and essential connections?

c. What responses by the adoptive parents would best meet the needs underlying Lucy's behavior?

PROACTIVE RESPONSES TO STEALING ILINC

Brian

After 15 months in their care, 11-year-old Brian has been adopted by his foster family. A quiet boy who doesn't ask for much attention, Brian seemed quite excited by the prospect of having his room fixed up now that he is a permanent member of the family. While his new father was moving the bed out of the room in order to paint the walls, he discovered a number of items that belonged to him. These included a good pen, a comb and brush, an old baseball glove, a discarded wallet, and a favorite leather belt.

a. What is (are) the possible reason(s) Brian steals?

b. What does Brian's stealing reveal about his self-concept and essential connections?

c. What responses by Brian's father will best meet the needs underlying the boy's behavior?

Adapted from: Center for Development of Human Services. "Caught!" In *Fosterparentscope, Manual Ten: Razing Trouble*, 83-85. Buffalo, New York: SUNY Buffalo State, Center for Development of Human Services, 1994.