

STRONG WILLED CHILDREN

How Strong-Willed Is Your Child?

If you suspect you're the parent of a strong-willed child, use this quiz to help you find out for sure. You can also answer the questions for yourself or your spouse to gain insights into your parenting styles.

Mark each of the following statements that are true almost all the time.

My child ...

- 1) almost never accepts words like "impossible" or phrases like "it can't be done."
- 2) can move with lightning speed from being a warm, loving presence to being a cold, immovable force.
- 3) will argue a point into the ground, sometimes just to see how far into the ground the point will go.
- 4) when bored, has been known to create a crisis rather than have a day go by without incident.
- 5) considers rules to be more like guidelines (i.e., "As long as I'm abiding by the 'spirit' of the law, why are you being so picky?").
- 6) shows great creativity and resourcefulness--seems to always find a way to accomplish a goal.
- 7) can turn what seems to be the smallest issue into a grand crusade or a raging controversy.
- 8) doesn't do things just because "you're supposed to"--it needs to matter personally.
- 9) refuses to obey unconditionally--seems to always have a few terms of negotiation before complying.
- 10) is not afraid to try the unknown--to conquer the unfamiliar (although each SWC chooses his or her own risks, they all seem to possess the confidence to try new things).
- 11) can take what was meant to be the simplest request and interpret it as an offensive ultimatum.
- 12) may not actually apologize but almost always makes things right.

Score

If you marked ...

0-3 Your child might have a strong will, but he doesn't use it much.

4-7 Your child uses her strong will when she needs to, but not on a daily basis.

8-10 Your child has a very healthy dose of strong will, but can back off when he wants to.

11-12 Your child is one strong-willed kid. She finds it almost impossible not to use it.