

Why some kids hang off one adults word, and complain and disobey with other adults.....

Some people might not agree with evolution, or all of it's teachings. Luckily science doesn't need their agreement to allow it to be true. This isn't a religious argument, it is well known fact that the first 2/3 of our brain operate exactly like all mammals brains.

It is geared for survival in a primitive, natural setting. In that primitive natural setting there is **only one goal**- "survive" then "reproduce".

So the first 2/3 of the human brain are developed for that purpose alone. They provide instincts in the **"autonomic nervous system"** that compel young humans to one behaviour or another that will eventually let the human survive and reproduce. The thing is, we developed cities and no longer live in nature, but the first 2/3 of brain does not know that.

"The autonomic nervous system knows no language, does not comprehend civilization, concrete, or automobiles, it is still very much behaving like we are in the forest surrounded by tigers." Besser Vander Kolk. "The body keeps the score". 2001.

So our children are still experiencing very natural instincts that would protect them from danger of predators, or sudden death. It just shows up in their behaviour in a world where we no longer have those threats. Our children are constantly attracted to qualities in adults that will guarantee their survival.

This is how this relates to the title of our article today.

What is needed to survive for a child who can't defend itself.

1. An adult tough enough to fight off predators.
2. Knowledge of how the outside world works so the kid can control his surroundings to provide for himself.
3. Knowledge of how human society works, so the kid can thrive in the tribe and not be abandoned.

How does this translate into a child's modern day behaviour? Well, it work like this.

Children will have an **"autonomic nervous system"** craving for adults that provide these 3 basic needs.

It looks like this: Kids will crave adults that do these things.

1. Adults who discipline, have strong voices, and take strong stances on issues, and don't take crap from no one, especially the child.
2. Adults who teach the kids how things work. Electricity, remote controls, cars, bows and arrows, basic physics, machines, cooking, fire, how to tie knots, etc.....
3. Adults who teach character strengths, values, personality strengths, who teach rites of passage from boyhood to manhood, girlhood to womanhood, how to be a team, what matters to their gender, what's socially acceptable, honor, integrity, respect, etc.....

When a child's **“autonomic nervous system”** experiences an adult that provides these things the kid will **“feel”** that his survival is assured as long as he is around this adult. That leads to respect and admiration, and taking that adult seriously.

Or in other words..... **Hanging off one adult's words.**

When a child is around an adult that does not provide these things, or worse, provides the opposite, the child will **“feel”** that their survival is threatened. They will lose respect, their “survival mechanisms” will kick into place, and they will **complain, cry, or not listen to that adult** and get all around general moody because their nervous system interprets this as danger.

These adults behave like this.....

1. Weak, a pushover, the child can bully and manipulate, not consistent, or unable to command respect.
2. Uses common phrases like “because I said so”. (which doesn't explain anything)
 - a. Or adults that do “everything “ for the child instead of teaching the child how to do for himself.
3. Does not demonstrate in front of the child our societal rules, but instead passes things off as “bad” or “nice” behaviour.

Bottom line is this:

Our natural instincts are still influencing our behaviour to guarantee our survival. When we give kids what they need to “feel” like they are going to survive on their ‘OWN’. They will feel a natural attraction and respect for whatever adult is providing that.

It is no mystery, and never was, why kids listen to some adults, and don't listen to others.

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Reference. Book. “unspoken voice” by Peter Levine. “Raising a Son” by Don Elium.