

# **Rudolph Dreikurs' Theories of Behavioural Motivations and Encouragement**



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# Dreikurs' Basic Assumptions about Behavioural Motivation



- \*People (including students) are social beings and desire to belong.
- \*Students are rational decision-making organisms.
- \*All behaviour is purposeful and directed toward social goals.
- \*Students do not see reality as it is, but only as they perceive it to be.
- \*A student's misbehaviour is the result of faulty reasoning on how to gain recognition.

Actions, the behaviours they signify, and the questions to ask to help rectify the problem.

Action	Behaviour
Acting out in ways that demand incessant praise or criticism.	<u>Attention getting</u> (Could it be that you want attention from me?)
A child who usually acts out of a feeling of inferiority will try to remedy this by acting bossy, bragging, or clowning around at inappropriate times.	<u>Power and control</u> (Have you been bossed around by someone and didn't like the feeling?)
Usually coming from a student who feels a sense of inequality, they think, "If I hurt, then I have to make others hurt."	<u>Revenge</u> (Has someone hurt you? Would you like to talk about that?)
This student, for some reason, has given up on gaining acceptance or status in a group and therefore, acts in such a way that lacks any motivation to succeed.	<u>Helplessness or inadequacy</u> (Do you want to be alone right now? If not, perhaps you can be my helper?)

# Encouragement techniques to help a child with behavioural problems.

- Place value on the child as s/he is.
- Show a faith in the child that enables the child to have faith in him/herself.
- Have faith in the child's ability, thus “winning” the child's confidence while building his/her self-respect.
- Always recognize a job well done and effort.
- Integrate the group so that the child can be sure of his/her place in it.
- Recognize and focuse on strengths and assets.
- Utilize the interests of the child to energize instruction.

# A final word from Dreikurs

"The essence of encouragement is to increase the child's confidence in himself and to convey to him that he is good enough as he is...  
not just as he might be."