

When do children learn to tell lies?

Is it a bad thing if children tell lies? Scientists don't think so. This short video explains why.

Tasks

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

Vocabulary

1. to sneak in
2. to work out
3. rigged
4. to be somebody's fault
5. to get caught
6. resourceful
7. complicit
8. to get away with it

Definition

- a. included in a plan to do something wrong
- b. to be identified as the person who did something wrong
- c. to find a solution after thinking
- d. to be the person who caused a certain problem or mistake
- e. to enter a place in a quiet, secret way
- f. able to find solutions to problems, even when in a new situation
- g. prepared in a dishonest way, so that a certain result will happen
- h. to escape punishment for having done something wrong

Task 1

Circle the best answer to complete the sentences.

1. The children say that the chocolate cake was touched by ...
 - a. both people and animals.
 - b. other people.
 - c. some animals.
2. The psychologist says that lying is important because it shows that children can ...
 - a. escape dangerous situations.
 - b. learn skills for their future work.
 - c. understand other people.
3. The psychologists agree that four-year-olds are usually ...
 - a. not able to lie.
 - b. very skilled liars.
 - c. very subtle liars.
4. When asked about the sweets on the floor, the four-year-old blonde boy (Elie) accepts ...
 - a. all the responsibility.
 - b. none of the responsibility.
 - c. partial responsibility.
5. After the six-year-olds eat the sweets, they feel ...
 - a. a sense of panic.
 - b. confident that they can invent lies.
 - c. wonderful.
6. The psychologist says that the six-year-olds have learned that lying is ...
 - a. a group effort.
 - b. very easy.
 - c. wrong but necessary.
7. When asked about the sweets on the floor, one of the six-year-old boys accepts ...
 - a. all the responsibility.
 - b. none of the responsibility.
 - c. partial responsibility.
8. The two psychologists agree that when children learn to lie, the parents will probably have ...
 - a. a sense of happiness.
 - b. a sense of worry.
 - c. mixed feelings.

Task 2

Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

complicit

fault

rigged

trouble

work

1. Lying is a really important developmental skill. It tells us that the children can out what's in someone else's mind.
2. To test the children's lying skills at different ages, we left them alone with a gumball machine and told them not to touch it.
3. It was her for listening!
4. As long as you've got the rest of the group with you, you get away with it.
5. It shows how smart the kid is, even though it also shows that you're going to be in a lot of as a parent from now on.

Discussion

Do you remember any lies that you told when you were a child? Do you think parents should try to prevent their children from lying?

Answers

Preparation task

1. e
2. c
3. g
4. d
5. b
6. f
7. a
8. h

Task 1

1. a
2. c
3. a
4. c
5. a
6. a
7. a
8. c

Task 2

1. work
2. rigged
3. fault
4. complicit
5. trouble