

The Moral Judgment Interview

Moral Judgment Assignment

Spring 2012

| | POSSIBLE POINTS | ASSIGNED POINTS |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Two children assessed | 2 | 2 |
| Process clearly described | 3 | 3 |
| Responses adequately documented | 3 | 3 |
| Interpretation | 2 | 2 |
| TOTALS | 10 | 10 |

CI 171
Spring 2012

1. Debrah (10 years old/ fourth grade)
2. Interview took place in a quiet, empty classroom

3. Questions asked:

IB: Which child was the naughtiest?
Maria, who cut a big hole in her dress? Or
Christina, who made a little hole in her dress?
Why is that one the naughtiest?

IIB: Which of the two girls is worse? Why?

IIB: Can you guess which of the girls will be bad again?
The girl who was talked to or the girl who was spanked?
Why?

IV: If your mother asked you, should you do both chores?
Is it fair for mother to ask?
Why?

4. Responses:

IB: Debrah said " Maria is not the naughtiest because she was trying to make her mom a surprise, so Christina is the naughtiest. "I asked, "Why do you think Christina is the naughtiest?" She replied, "because she took the scissors while her mom was out." A

IIB: Debrah said, " They both lied, but the first girl just didn't want to set the table so she is worse". A

IIB: Debrah said, " The girl who got spanked will be bad and take something again." I asked, "Why do you think the girl who got spanked will take something again and not the other girl"? She replied, "Because the mom told the other girl why she shouldn't steal, so she wont" A

IV: Debrah Said, " If your mother asks you, you should do it. But it's not fair the mother should make them both do it and then let them both play outside." A ✓

5. Interpretation:

According to Piaget, Debrah is in the Autonomous stage of moral development. She viewed the dilemmas with an understanding that morality is based on mutual respect and reciprocity. She viewed fairness as a mutual agreement and showed an understanding of intention and consequences. ✓

IB: Debrah showed in her response to the first question that she understands intentionality. She understood that Maria was making her mother a surprise and did not mean to cut the hole in the dress. Although Maria cut a large hole in her dress, Debrah was able to see the intention of her actions. ✓

IIB: Debrah showed she understands that intentional lying is worse than harmless exaggeration by identifying that the first girl "lied because she didn't want to set the table".

IIB: Debrah showed she does not necessarily view punishment as "an eye for an eye". Debrah felt that the child who received the talk over the spanking would be the one not to steal.

IV: Debrah showed in her response that she values obedience to authority by saying that the girl should listen to her mother. However, she also found equality to be equally as important by stating that the mother should make them both do chores. ✓ OK

1. Demarie (6 years old/ Kindergarten)
2. Interview took place in a quiet, empty classroom
3. **Questions asked:**

IB: Which child was the naughtiest?
Maria, who cut a big hole in her dress? Or
Christina, who made a little hole in her dress?
Why is that one the naughtiest?

IIB: Which of the two girls is worse? Why?

IIB: Can you guess which of the girls will be bad again?
The girl who was talked to or the girl who was spanked?
Why?

IV: If your mother asked you, should you do both chores?
Is it fair for mother to ask?
Why?

4. **Responses:**

IB: Demarie said, " Maria is naughtiest cause she made a big hole in her dress, but Christina only made a little hole." A

IIB: Demarie said, " The little girl who took the car for a ride because she didn't really do that". H

IIB: Demarie said, " The girl who didn't get a spanking is going to be bad again because she didn't get a spanking". H

IV: Demarie said, " If your mom asks you should do the chores." I asked, "do you think it is fair for the mother to ask one girl to do both chores?" She replied, "If the mother asks, then its fair." H

5. **Interpretation:**

According to Piaget, Demarie is in the heteronomous stage of moral development. She views fairness in terms of obedience to authority and places value on conforming to the rules. She also views consequences as more relevant than intentions. ✓

IB: Demarie did not take intentionality into account in this situation. She gave an answer based on consequence- the size of the holes made by each girl.

IIB: Demarie showed that she does not yet understand the difference between intentional deception and exaggeration. She did not take into account that the girl who lied about being hurt, did do in order to get out of a job.

IIB: Demarie considers "eye for an eye" punishment to be beneficial and does not yet see value in expiatory punishment.

IV: Demarie proved that she holds obedience to authority and following the rules at high regard. Although she thought it was unfair for the mother to make one girl do both chores, she felt the girl she do it anyways.

6. This assignment gave great insight into Piaget's two stages of moral development and provided the experience to witness both heteronomous and autonomous levels of moral thinking first hand. It was interesting to see how each student interviewed responded to each question differently and how their reasoning varied. Each of the students gave great explanations for their answers and provided a great amount of information that helped in identifying the moral development stage they were in. This assignment served as learning tool that provided a greater understanding of Piaget's stages of moral development and also added to the broader spectrum of understanding children and how they grow and develop.

Good

✓

Well done Tiffany.
Short, comprehensive and
to the point!
JB