

## Supporting Your Judging Preference Child

Does your child?

- Like order, structure, and predictability?
- Make decisions quickly and easily?
- Like to make and stick with a plan?
- Seem organized and prepared?

If so, your child may have a preference for judging. Judging and Perceiving describe a person's orientation to the outer world. Those on the judging side prefer an ordered, planned, and structured lifestyle. They tend to be organized and like things to be settled and decided. "Judging" does not imply that a child is judgmental in the sense of being critical; rather it refers to how they deal with the outer world.

### Parenting a Child Who Prefers Judging

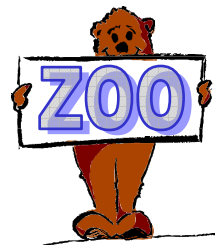
**Judging children enjoy the structure of a plan.** Judging children prefer to plan ahead. They find comfort in knowing what to expect and are able to relax when life is predictable. They feel relieved once a decision is made. They usually like to make the decision and gather energy from making decisions. But, they are also satisfied when others make the decision.

Grandmother Bonnie raising grandchildren said one of the boys has to know what's in the plan to feel comfort. Before he goes to bed, he wants to know what will be served for meals the next day. He's not able to relax until plans are firm and shared with him.

Mike described planning for a family weekend. His judging preference daughter, Rachael, has many

questions: When are we leaving? When will we get back? Are we staying in a motel? Can we eat at McDonalds? She wants to know what to expect.

Adele says her judging preference daughter always asks, "What are we doing today?" Prior to understanding her daughter's preference, she considered her daughter's repeated questions to be "nagging." Now Adele realizes her daughter needs to know what to expect so she is free to enjoy herself.



Jackie and her husband, both with perceiving preference, took the family to Minneapolis for a holiday, but with no specific plans. Their judging preference son asked them, "What will we be doing tomorrow?" Jackie answered, "We'll see." The next morning they drove around, saw a sign for the Minnesota Zoo and decided to go there. The child was frustrated saying, "I didn't knowwww we were going the zoo." He was so disturbed by the lack of structure and planning that he couldn't enjoy the zoo experience. If her son had known ahead to time what would be happening, he could have prepared mentally and have the right things (camera, clothes, etc.) to enjoy the experience. Since then, Jackie has made an effort to be more specific about plans with her son.

**What if plans need to be changed?** Judging children prefer not to deal with too many changes to their plans. Even nice surprises take getting used to. Transitions can be difficult. Give as much advance notice as possible. Also, give your judging child some “space” when you make a change in a plan. They need time to adjust and put the new plan into place.

Karen’s work meant that she often flew stand-by on airlines. Her perceiving preference let her “wing it” with ease. However, things were different traveling with her judging preference six year old daughter. When the flight was cancelled her daughter collapsed and had to be reassured with plans and details of the future.

**Structure is important to judging preference children.** A dependable routine is important to judging preference children. Tesa indicates that her judging preference son finds great comfort in routine. He counts on having dinner at 5:00 p.m. every night. If the schedule is thrown off, he gets really cranky.

Judging preference children tend to maintain their possessions in an organized fashion for them. They may be neat or not since neatness is not related directly to type preferences, but they will know where things are kept. You can observe this in fairly young children. Three year old Luke puts all his cars and trucks in a line along the top of his toy box. They arrange things so it is easy to find what they need on a moment’s notice.

**Judging preference children have a sense about time.** Judging children see time as fixed and often are concerned about how much time is available for an activity. They like to be “on time” for events, play dates, and other obligations. They become upset and anxious if they think they are going to be late. Often, being “on time” is arriving early and having time to get settled and ready to participate in the activity.

Judging preference children want other people, especially their parents, to be on time. With a judging preference child, it is important to be “on time” picking up your child from child care or some other event. If you know you will be late, let your child know ahead of time.

This example of a teenager points out how being “on time” is so important to judging children. Chris

described her fifteen year old daughter with a new cell phone. She carries the phone with her at all times. It frequently beeps, alerting her to her appointments and other items needing her attention. She uses the cell phone to help organize and structure her life.

**Following the rules is important to judging children.** Judging children find comfort and security in knowing and following the rules. They ask how to play a game and want to be told its limits and expectations. They try to follow the rules once they understand them. They may become worried or upset if other people break the rules, even correcting others who don’t follow the rules. If a playmate wants to change the way the game is played, they may even stop playing. They act rigid because they need and trust rules to help them know they are doing things right and to make them feel safe.

**Judging children work first, then play.**

Most children would rather play than work but if a judging child is given a job to do they want to hurry and finish so they can be free to play.



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