Children’s Expectations of Social Behavior Questionnaire- Mother

Directions: I’m going to read you some stories and I want you to listen to each one carefully. You may not have really been in all of these situations, but just pretend that they are happening to you. After each one, I’ll read you 3 choices. Listen to all three of them and then circle the answer that you think best tells what your mother would do if this really happened. Remember to listen to all of the choices before you choose one.

1. You come home from school one day and you’re very excited because you won first prize in a contest at school. You go inside and start to tell your mother all about the contest. What do you think she might do?
   a. She might tell me that she’s in the middle of doing something else and she doesn’t have time to listen now.
   b. She might get very excited, tell me that she’s proud of me, and hang my prize on the wall for everyone to see.
   c. She might get mad at me for interrupting what she is doing and tell me to go into another room.

2. Your art teacher decides to have the class make presents for their mothers. You work for a week on a clay vase, but it comes out a little lopsided. What might your mother do when you give it to her.
   a. She might say that she loved it and put it out in the living room.
   b. She might point out that it was lopsided and ask what happened to it.
   c. She might say that it was nice but never really use it.

3. Your mother is trying to teach you how to play a new game, but the rules are kind of confusing and you’re having some trouble learning how to play. What do you think your mother might do?
   a. She might tell me that she didn’t have the time to wait for me to learn it and she would stop playing with me.
   b. She might say that I never seem to be able to learn anything new and that’s the last time she would try to teach me.
   c. She might explain the rules again and start the game over so that I could have another chance.

4. One afternoon you’re riding your bicycle around the neighborhood with some friends. You fall off and hurt yourself. When you go home, you tell your mother that you hurt yourself. What do you think she might do?
   a. She might say that I’m always getting hurt and I should be more careful.
   b. She might tell me that it doesn’t look that bad and I shouldn’t worry so much about nothing.
   c. She might say that it looks like it really hurts and help me fix it up.

5. You come from school one day and you’re feeling kind of sad because some of the kids at school were making fun of you. You go to tell your mother what happened. What do you think she might do?
   a. She might give you a hug and talk it over with me so that I don’t feel so bad.
   b. She might tell me that it’s nothing to get so upset about and I should ignore them.
   c. She might tell me that I’m acting like a baby and should be able to stick up for myself.
6. You want to surprise your mother one morning so you decide to make breakfast for her. You make her toast and eggs but it gets burned. What might your mother do?

a. She might get kind of angry because I had wasted the food and made a mess in the kitchen.
b. She might eat the toast and eggs and tell me that it was very good.
c. She might just leave the toast and eggs and make her own breakfast.

7. Some of your friends are talking about a new movie that they saw over the weekend. It sounds really exciting and you want to go and see it. That night you ask your mom if she will give you a ride and pick you up from the movies that weekend. What do you think she might say?

a. She might say that she doesn’t really have time and I should probably catch up on my homework.
b. She might get kind of angry and tell me that I’m always asking for things from her.
c. She might make a deal with me that if I clean my room up on Saturday then she’ll give me a ride and pick me up from the movies on Sunday.

8. You’ve been working for three weeks on this 500-piece puzzle that someone gave you, but you’re getting frustrated because it’s really hard. You tell your mom that you just can’t finish it. What do you think she might say?

a. She might say that I’ve been doing a great job so far and she knows that I’ll be able to finish it.
b. She might say that I never seem to be able to finish anything that I start.
c. She might tell me just to forget it and someone else will finish it instead.

9. You’re putting on a class play at school and you can’t wait because you’re going to play the leading role. Your mom promised that she would come to see you, but her friend calls that day and asks her to do a favor. What might your mother do?

a. She might tell me that she has other things to do and I can’t expect her to always do everything for me.
b. She might tell me that she was sorry because she knew it was important to me, but she wouldn’t be able to come.
c. She might tell her friend that she already has plans and she would come to see me in the show.

10. You’re really scared one night because you wake up in the middle of the night and you think that you hear someone outside of your window. You go and wake your mother up to tell her about it. What do you think she might do?

a. She might tell me to go back to bed because I was just imagining things.
b. She might take me back to bed and sit with me for a little while.
c. She might get kind of angry at me for waking her up.
11. You’re learning how to do a new kind of problem in math class and you’re having a lot of trouble understanding how to do your homework. One night you get really upset because you can’t figure it out, so you ask your mom to help you after dinner. What do you think she might do?

a. She might tell me that I was old enough to do my homework by myself and I shouldn’t need any help.
b. She might tell me to go and get my homework and she would help me figure it out.
c. She might tell me that she was tired right now and didn’t really like looking at it.

12. One morning you wake up and you’re in a bad mood, even though nothing really happened to make you feel that way. You go into the kitchen for breakfast and your mom’s sitting there. What might she do?

a. She might tell me a joke to try and cheer me up.
b. She might tell me to stop being such a grouch.
c. She might tell me to go and get ready for school.

13. Your class is having a bake sale to raise money for a field trip and all your classmates’ mothers are going to make something for them to sell. You ask your mother if she would make something for you. What might your mom do?

a. She might bake a really great dessert so that I had something that I could sell at the bake sale.
b. She might say that she’s too busy to deal with things like that right now.
c. She might tell me that she couldn’t waste all her time making things for my class.

14. One day you have test in school. Even though you studied really hard for it the night before you still don’t do very well on it. You bring it home that day to show to your mother and you’re really upset about the bad grade. What might she do?

a. She might tell me that I hadn’t studied enough and couldn’t watch TV that week, because I had to study more.
b. She might tell me that she knew I had tried hard and that she knows I’ll be able to do better on the next test if I keep trying.
c. She might tell me that I never seemed to be able to do well in school and I better not get any more bad grades.

15. One evening your mother is all dressed up and is about to go out to dinner with some friends. You haven’t been feeling well all day and now you’re really starting to feel sick. What might your mother do?

a. She might tell me that I always seem to ruin her plans by getting sick.
b. She might tell me to go to bed and give me some aspirin.
c. She might cancel her dinner plans and stay home with me.