Case Study

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In psychological assessment, this paper seeks to analyze the three scenarios presented in the study and derive the proper handling situation based on the cognitive development stage of the child in each scenario. The scenarios will be assessed according to the Piaget Stage Theory of Cognitive Development. According to a theory, four stages of cognitive development are: sensorimotor, preoperational, concrete, and formal.

**Scenario 1**

The first scenario presents the 5-year old child who shoves another child and snatches his toy. The child later yells at the child and runs away. According to the Piaget Stage Theory of Cognitive Development, Child is in the “preoperational” developmental stage. In this stage, child is unable to think about anything that is not already incorporated in his viewpoint. The child requires concrete physical evidence to understand the situations and form a belief because he is unable to perceive the concepts abstractly (Ciccarelli & White, 2016). Simply stated, he just communicates with words, pictures, and imagination. As a parent, I would adopt the authoritative style of parenting. However, I would address my child by politely telling her that what she did was wrong. As a child is still in the learning stage, by telling her to apologize from the other kid and returning the toy may induce a sense of good and bad. As a child is unable to see things from other viewpoints, I would take away her toy instead of making her learn how others would feel bad just like her. It would likely teach her to behave nicely with other kids.

**Scenario 2**

Both children in this scenario are in the formal operations developmental phase. In this stage, the teen is completely capable of hypothetical and deductive reasoning by thinking logically about the situation and understanding the consequences of negative behavior (Ciccarelli & White, 2016). I will once again adopt an authoritative style of parenting. Kids at this stage are prone to communicating so I would engage my 13-year-old son in an effective conversation and ask him the reason for stealing when he already knew that it was not the right thing to do. He will be grounded for the rest of the week except when he is going to school. I would ask him to pay back the money he stole by doing a simple short term job such as cleaning a porch or garage of a neighbor. I would confiscate all the e-cigarettes he purchased from my money and make him understand the consequences of stealing.

In the case of my 15-year-old daughter, I would not punish her but make her explain the reason for not telling me about his brother’s act of stealing for the sake of buying vapes. She acted out due to not getting half of the money from the loot. I would make her payback by doing chores around the house.

**Scenario 3**

In the third case, 21 years old is in the formal operation scale, and she is quite capable of hypothetical and deductive reasoning. Although she is completely aware of the abstract theories, her case suggests she is in the relativistic stage as her critical thinking has been influenced by her diverse social interaction at the campus (Ciccarelli & White, 2016). As she is capable of understanding the hypothetical situations, I would adopt the reasoning parenting style. I would place various consequences of her decision before her and let her deduce the results. I would let her know about the importance of college degree and career plans incase his husband does not want to support her in the future. I would ask her to invite the boy to a family dinner so we would know if he is right for the daughter. I would suggest alternatives to her, such as marrying the boy after completing the degree or getting an online education. Respecting my daughter’s decision is also my responsibility as a parent. Logical reasoning with my daughter will make her rethink the choices which can prove beneficial in the future.

**Reference**

Ciccarelli, S. K., & White, J. N. (2016). *Psychology*. Pearson.