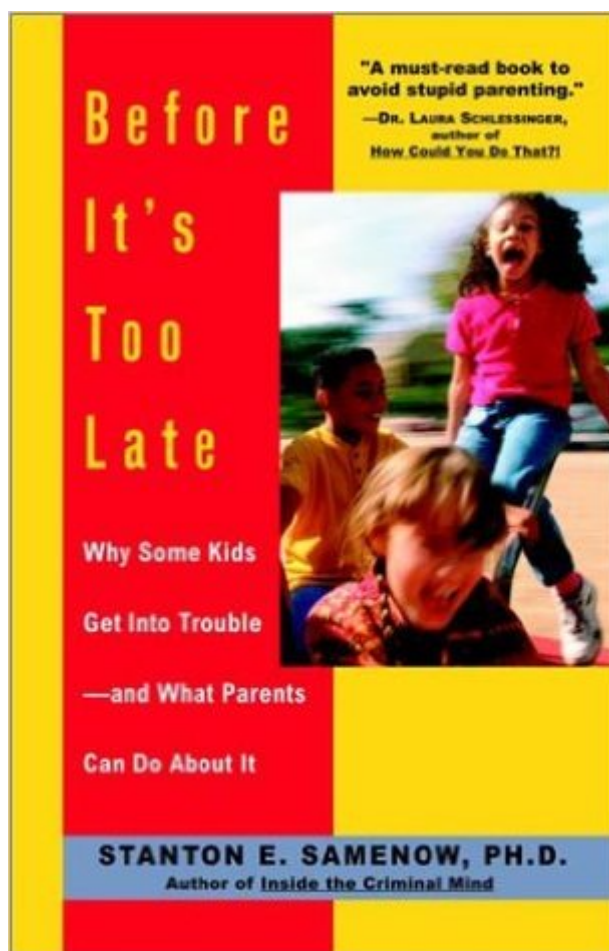


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# Before It's Too Late: Why Some Kids Get Into Trouble--and What Parents Can Do About It



## Synopsis

Is it just a phase, or could your child be headed for serious trouble? If you sense that your child is seriously troubled, you may feel bewildered, helpless, ineffective. How can you stop your child from throwing away his or her life? How can you avoid thinking that you've failed as a parent? In this newly revised and expanded edition of the classic guide *Before It's Too Late*, clinical psychologist Stanton E. Samenow explains how to break the useless cycle of blame and take corrective action. Topics include:

- \* How to understand the personality of the antisocial child\*
- How to tell the difference between a "phase" and a pattern of misbehavior\*
- How to identify the seven common manifestations of antisocial behavior\*
- How to cope more effectively as the parent of an older antisocial child\*
- How to avoid the six common mistakes that prevent parents from taking action\*
- How to step in "early and effectively" before bad behavior becomes entrenched

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In the book, *Before It's Too Late*, Dr. Samenow answers the questions many Americans have concerning what we can do about teenage criminals. I have taught in McLaughlin Youth Center (MYC) for over 11 years. MYC is the state reform school for Alaska. Over these 11 years I have taught hundreds of youthful offenders. Dr. Samenow has not only described the problems these offenders have, he has identified how to help those who can be helped. Many times I have asked my students, "Did any of you know that what you did to get incarcerated here was wrong?" In every instance 100% of them admit that they knew that their action was wrong. They admit that they made

the choice to take a chance and commit a crime. Through out my teaching career, which began in 1955, I have heard people say, "Oh, the poor children. If their parents had not neglected them, if they had had a good home, if only society gave them a chance, et cetera." This is utter nonsense and Dr. Samenow refutes this nonsense with facts and statistics. These facts reveal that the choices these criminals made were not the result of neglect or poor conditions. In nearly every case children made the choices. These children have a predisposition to antisocial behavior. America has excused their behavior and we can not survive if we do not stop excusing juvenile criminal behavior. America must save itself from this growing number of criminals. We must recognize that the weak treatment programs of the past have not worked. These programs are not working now and that the children of today need to know that their antisocial behavior will result in the swift, sure and certain punishment their crimes deserve. Dr. Samenow tells us how to do this. We must listen before it's too late. Rev. Dr. Michael K. Mitchell Anchorage, Alaska

I've been trying to understand my son's problems since he was 18 months old (now 15). He's been diagnosed with numerous disorders and hospitalized x2. I gave up highlighting the book's text when I realized I was highlighting every word! Deepest thanks to you, Dr. Samenow, for being the one voice of reason in my experience of parenting. P.S. Like parents described in the book, I also have another child who is loving & rational, and unfortunately has paid a high price for her brother's disruptive problems. Take care, Debbie Anderson

This was one of the most thoroughly researched book on children with discipline problems who do not respond to the usual consequences of their behavior. Dr. Samenow has extensive experience with criminal behavior and insight into the thought processes of deviant children. I was very disappointed, however, with the lack suggestions for parents with these children. The efficacy of counseling is implied without advice on how to find a professional with experience in these areas. How to deal with specific, common behavior problems is not addressed.

And how to deal with it without being manipulated or bullied. Especially helpful to me were the descriptions of common symptoms of antisocial people (each symptom gets a whole chapter of treatment): 1) Life is a One-Way Street---My Way 2) Disregard of Injury to Others 3) Unrealistic Expectations and Pretentions 4) Taking the Easy Way 5) Lying as a Way of Life 6) "It's Not My Fault"--Refusing to be Held Accountable 7) An Island Unto Himself Of course, if you know anybody who exhibits some of these traits, you better get a copy of this book. The last part of the book shows

how to successfully deal with these difficult people.--George Stancliffe

I wish I'd read this book years ago. This is the 2nd re-written edition of the book, which Samenow explains differs from the first in that he distinguishes more specifically between the behavior of an antisocial child and phases of bad behavior of other children. I am a parent of 3 children - 2 are very normal, confident and well rounded, the other has been in therapy, psychiatry, psychiatric hospitals and on various cocktails of medication since he was 4 years old. Now we have reached teenage years and still have no answers or concrete diagnoses, but an increasingly problem whereby we live with locked cupboards all over our house, dealings with police, school, firesetting problems. After discussions with a psychologist and social worker about antisocial personality, this book was recommended to me and I recognized everything written as something we have dealt with since our son was a small child. The greatest relief given to me by this book was not only the acceptance that we did everything we could, everything advised by every doctor & therapist, but we finally understand more about how his mind works when he makes the wrong choices and treats his closest family as the enemy. This understanding alone, even before I reached the chapters on parenting advice, helped us immediately to dissolve the power struggles and changed the way we approach a conflict. This acceptance by us not only helps us but our other two children, and has possibly helped prevent further erosion of our family's esteem, hopes and sanity.

Dr. Samenow has a "spirit of the law" approach as he sketches in traits of anti-social people. He clarifies and substantiates the idea that people, including young children are responsible for their choices regardless of life circumstances. The book validates parents, frees them from the numbness of guilt, gives them confidence and encourages them with ideas of how to respond to their antisocial children. As an elementary school counselor I feel this book should be read or the message in it should be conveyed to teachers of these children, as well as their parents. This book does not "spoon feed" the reader. If one wants specific ideas, s/he should refer to current parenting books that address this important issue. Now more than ever, we need to guide children into patterns of respect and responsibility, thus preventing antisocial personality development.

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