Why do we need to be concerned about spoiled children? How are they spoiled and what are their attitudes? In general, spoiled children have an attitude of “entitled.” They feel they are entitled to get what they want and should be treated as “special.” They are likely to be selfish and self-centered. They usually don’t consider other people, cannot tolerate frustration and don’t want to compromise.

Most people think that giving children too many presents can spoil a child, however, most experts disagree. Dr. Anthony Wold, psychologist, states, “You begin to spoil a child when you give gifts, not because you want to, but because you feel forced to.” It is true not to go overboard. But if giving children gifts because you think children should have whatever they want or you think it is a way to make them happy because of guilt, then you are spoiling your children. Single or divorced parents may have a problem of giving in to children because of guilt.

In addition, children get spoiled when parents do not have consistent rules and guidelines to teach their children. If parents always do things for their children even though their children can or should do it for themselves, children will get spoiled too. They may show poor skills to interact with people, solve problems, or make decisions.

In order to unspoil a child, parents need to have clear rules. Take one step at a time. It is unrealistic to change everything immediately, for instance, household chores, bedtime, mealtime, etc. You might want to rethink your parenting styles and the way you teach your children. Are you giving in too much or too rigid on kids? You might want to make some changes before you can change your children’s behavior. When you begin to be firm and consistent, you will expect resistance at first because your child might challenge you if you used to give in. It will need a lot of time, energy and patience, but your efforts will be worthwhile.