



Reframe & Reconsider: Stealing

Stealing is to take something that isn't yours, without permission. A foundational skill required to avoid stealing is to know about belonging and ownership.



Could be misinterpreted as...

- Deliberate dishonesty
- Lacking a conscience
- Lacking respect
- Not sharing
- Selfishness



Should be interpreted as possibly...

- Not understanding the concept of ownership
- Being unable to generalize the difference between finding, wanting, accepting, owning, borrowing, and knowing where something is kept
- Thrill-seeking, attention seeking
- Believing that the person holding an item now owns it (e.g., anger/panic when someone searches a bag)
- Being unable to meet their own needs (e.g., hunger, safety)
- Impulsivity, needing help connecting actions to consequences

Real-life Example:
A youth working at a golf course sees a golf cart with the keys in it, and no personal possessions inside. Not seeing clear ownership, the youth took it for a ride (to the owner's dismay) and crashed it into a pond.

STRATEGIES

- Teach ownership and belonging, specifically recognizing the difference in *wanting, seeing, finding, holding, borrowing, accepting, buying, owning, and knowing where something is kept*
- Teach *who* to ask permission from (owner, guardian, etc.)
- Find out *why* they took the item, then address that issue (meeting needs, thrill-seeking, etc.)
- Question someone's stealing behaviour using a curious approach

