Strategies to Help Families During Coronavirus

8 Ways a Child's Anxiety Shows Up as Something Else

1. Anger
   The perception of danger, stress or opposition is enough to trigger the fight or flight response leaving your child angry and without a way to communicate why.

2. Difficulty Sleeping
   In children, having difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep is one of the hallmark characteristics of anxiety.

3. Defiance
   Unable to communicate what is really going on, it is easy to interpret the child's defiance as a lack of discipline instead of an attempt to control a situation where they feel anxious and helpless.

4. Chandeliering
   Chandeliering is when a seemingly calm person suddenly flies off the handle for no reason. They have pushed hurt and anxiety so deep for so long that a seemingly innocent comment or event suddenly sends them straight through the chandelier.

5. Lack of Focus
   Children with anxiety are often so caught up in their own thoughts that they do not pay attention to what is going on around them.

6. Avoidance
   Children who are trying to avoid a particular person, place or task often end up experiencing more of whatever it is they are avoiding.

7. Negativity
   People with anxiety tend to experience negative thoughts at a much greater intensity than positive ones.

8. Overplanning
   Overplanning and defiance go hand in hand in their root cause. Where anxiety can cause some children to try to take back control through defiant behavior, it can cause others to overplan for situations where planning is minimal or unnecessary.

Image from https://gozen.com/8-ways-a-childs-anxiety-shows-up-as-something-else/