

Engulfing vs Ignoring Narcissistic Mothers.

Most narcissistic mothers fall into one of the two categories, but sometimes she will swing back & forth between the two, which can be extremely confusing for her child.

Ignoring narcissistic mothers behave much as the name implies—they ignore their children. They don't want to be bothered with their child's needs or wants. Sure, they may provide food, clothing & shelter, but that is usually all. They don't spend time with their child or teach the child anything, even basic life skills. When the child is sick, the child may not even see a doctor or receive any care above the bare minimum. A child is nothing but an inconvenience for the ignoring narcissistic mother.

The engulfing narcissistic mother is the exact opposite of the ignoring mother. She controls every aspect of her child in an effort to make the child into her mini me. She dresses the child in a way she wants the child to dress, forces her to have the interests that she approves of whether or not the child shares those interests, & she prevents her child from having many friends. Engulfing mothers see their children as nothing but extensions of themselves, not as individuals, so the child's wants & needs don't matter. All that matters is that the child behaves & looks like the mother wants.

In cases of kids raised by either an engulfing or ignoring narcissistic mother, when the child gets some attention, this is also a huge problem for the narcissistic mother. Both ignoring & engulfing mothers are extremely envious of their daughters, & hate their daughters being complemented. If anyone thinks the child is prettier or more talented than the mother, the mother will be sure to hurt her child as much as she can. She will say the cruelest possible things to make sure her child doesn't believe the complements she has received. Some mothers say they do this so their child doesn't get too conceited, but the truth is, they just want to hurt their child to keep the child easily controllable.

Engulfing mothers in particular seem to take their child growing up as a betrayal rather than a natural course of events. It's as if they think their child will stay a small child forever, never growing up or wanting to have a life of their own. I think since they only see their child as an extension of themselves, & they don't want or need their child to grow up, it's like it doesn't cross their minds that the child will grow up. Then when it happens, they're angry it happened, as if the child did it just to make them angry instead of it being a natural event. These mothers sometimes try to stop the growing up process, too. My mother refused to let me wear makeup when all of my friends had been wearing it for a couple of years. She also didn't like me going to dances in junior & senior high school. If she found out I had any interest in any boy, all hell broke loose—she would tell me no guy would want me or why she hated him. In fact, when I was 17 & wanted to date, her abuse went to a new level of cruelty. Other signs of growing up were bad enough, but wanting to date seemed like the ultimate betrayal for her.

Ignoring mothers don't seem to share the disdain for their children growing up. It's more of a relief to them that they're not responsible for their child at all anymore. Some do end up angry that their child is no longer so easy to control as they grow up.

As an adult, engulfing mothers can still be engulfing, just not to the point they once could. They may demand their child's time, even at the expense of the child's spouse & kids, even on special days such as birthdays or anniversaries. They also expect their adult child to be blindly obedient, as they were as kids.

Ignoring narcissistic mothers still ignore their child, even as an adult. They may participate in holidays or other special occasions together, but it seems like a chore for them rather than something they enjoy.

If you recognize these behaviors in your mother, I hope this helps you to understand what's happening better. Remember to enforce your healthy boundaries & keep calm when dealing with her as much as possible.