

Comparison of Parenting Styles

	Laissez-Faire (Permissive)	Democratic (Authoritative)	Autocratic (Authoritarian)
Goal for parent:	Peace Ease	Guidance Satisfaction	Power Ease
Accompanying belief	"I must please my children"	"I must lead my children"	"I must control my children"
Parent's goals for children:	Freedom Respect for self "go for it" mentality Responsibility to self	Cooperativeness Respect for self and others Courage Responsibility to self and others	Obedience Respect for authority A "healthy" fear Responsibility to others
Parenting tools:	Pleasing Hoping Pleading Giving in Giving up Asking	Mutual problem solving "I" messages Individual problem-solving Group meetings Negotiation	Rewards Punishment Threats Bribes Intimidating Demanding
Characteristics of rule enforcement:	No rules, limits, standards or requirements. Structure is absent.	Clear guidelines are set by parents and are enforced with flexibility and caring. Discipline occurs through modeling.	Strict rules are rigidly enforced with no exceptions
Characteristics of parent-child relationship:	Service by parent Demands by child Resentment	Warmth Sharing Mutual respect Conflict resolution	Power struggles Anger Rebellion
Typical qualities of parent:	Indecisive Accepting Timid Inconsistent Weak Absent, unavailable	Firm Kind Cooperative Strong Nurturing	Controlling Critical Harsh Loud Strong
Typical qualities of child:	Disrespectful Spoiled Insecure Self-centered Lacking self discipline	Cooperative Responsible Courageous Team-centered Self disciplined	Disobedient Deceitful Strong-willed Rebellious Resentful Lacking self discipline
Typical attitudes towards feelings:	No one is there to hear or validate feelings.	All feelings are allowed and shared.	Only certain feelings are allowed to be expressed.
Typical attitudes towards mistakes:	Mistakes are ignored or entail no consequences.	Mistakes are disciplined and forgiven.	Mistakes are punished, judged, and shamed.