

PARENTING STYLES

and The Children They Are Likely to Produce

“Where did we get the crazy idea that in order to make children do better, we must first make them feel worse?”

From Positive Discipline by Jane Nelson

BASIC CONCEPTS:

1. Children are social beings.
2. Behavior is goal oriented.
3. A child's primary goal is to belong and to be significant.
4. A misbehaving child is a discouraged child.
5. Children become encouraged by learning self-reliance and developing social interest.
6. Children have equal claim to dignity and respect.
7. Mistakes are wonderful opportunities to learn.
8. Children thrive with a message of love.

CHILD'S PRIMARY GOAL:

“I want to belong.”

FOUR MISTAKEN GOALS OF CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOR:

1. Attention. “I belong only when I have your attention.”
2. Power. “I belong only when I'm winning or in charge, or at least when I don't let you win.”
3. Revenge. “It hurts that I don't belong, but at least I can hurt back.”
4. Assumed Inadequacy. “I give up. It is impossible to belong.”

PARENTS' SHORT-TERM GOAL:

Find immediate solutions to control the behavior of children.

PARENTS' LONG-TERM GOALS FOR THEIR CHILDREN:

Courage, resourcefulness, self-discipline, responsibility (problem solving), cooperation, self-esteem, respect for self and others, success (contributing member of society), sense of humor....

THE STYLES

POSITIVE/DEMOCRATIC

❖ Freedom with order

❖ Limited choices

❖ “You can choose within limits that show respect for all.”

Parental Attitude: “Together we will decide on rules for our mutual benefit. We will also decide together on solutions that will be helpful to all concerns when we have problems. When I must use my judgment without your input, I will use firmness with kindness, dignity, and respect.”

Long-term Results in Children: Most likely to achieve long-term goals as listed on page 1 in addition to having close, positive relations with parents.

STRICTNESS/AUTHORITARIAN

❖ Order without freedom

❖ No Choices

❖ “You do it because I said so!”

Parental Attitude: “These are the results by which you must abide and this is the punishment you will receive for violation of the rules.” Children are not involved in the decision making process.

Long-term Results in Children:

- Resentment, revenge, rebellion
- People-pleasing behaviors/perfectionism/need for outside validation
- Less self-confidence, less independence, less creativity, less intellectual curiosity, less maturity in moral development, less flexibility in approaching problems

PERMISSIVENESS

❖ Freedom without order

❖ Unlimited choices

❖ “You can do anything you want.”

Parental Attitude: “There are no rules. I am sure we will love each other and be happy, and you will be able to choose your own rules later.”

Long-term Results in Children:

- A belief that the world owes them a living
- At risk for drug use and other deviant social behaviors