

# #9460 UNDERSTANDING PARENTING STYLES: AUTHORITARIAN- DEMOCRATIC- PERMISSIVE

MERIDIAN EDUCATION CORP.

1998

Grade Levels: 9-13+

27 minutes



## DESCRIPTION

Six actors represent teens and their parents in a series of vignettes that demonstrate three parenting styles and how each affects children. Shows the rationales behind and conflicts inherent in the authoritative, democratic, and permissive style. Good parenting combines the three, depending on each situation and individual child.

## ACADEMIC STANDARDS

### Subject Area: Behavioral Studies

- Standard: Understands that interactions among learning, inheritance, and physical development affect human behavior
  - Benchmark: Understands that human beings tend to repeat behaviors that feel good or have pleasant consequences and to avoid behaviors that feel bad or have unpleasant consequences
  - Benchmark: Understands that differences in the behavior of individuals arise from the interaction of heredity and experience
  - Benchmark: Understands that expectations, moods, and prior experiences of human beings can affect how they interpret new perceptions or ideas

### Subject Area: Health

- Standard: Understands the relationship of family health to individual health
  - Benchmark: Knows strategies that improve or maintain family health (e.g., how one's personal behavior can affect the behavior and feelings of other family members)

### Subject Area: Working With Others

- Standard: Uses conflict-resolution techniques
  - Benchmark: Understands that three ineffective responses to criticism are (1) being aggressive, (2) being passive, and (3) being both

## INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To describe and explain the three styles of parenting techniques: Autocratic, Democratic and Permissive.
2. To illustrate the dynamics at work in parenting.
3. To recognize the impact of leadership choices on children.
4. To emphasize that positive parenting decisions can foster an atmosphere of trust, respect and cooperation.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The video opens with three young characters talking about a problem they have encountered with their parents. Each has either told a lie or deliberately withheld the truth. Each of the three characters understands that there is going to be a big conflict because of the lie.

When the parents find out that their children have lied to them, each reacts in a remarkably different way, emphasizing their own parenting styles. Katey's mom reacts with anger; Walter's mom with confusion; and Raymond's dad with nonchalance.

The results of the lies the children tell have different outcomes as well. Katey's mom finds a new trip for her where she will be appropriately chaperoned. Walter's mom helps him find a solution to his dilemma and figure out how he should spend his summer vacation. Raymond's dad lets him figure it all out on his own.

## AFTER SHOWING

### Discussion Items and Questions

1. What are the three examples of parenting styles? Which style do your parent(s) fit?
2. Do your parents have a different parenting style? How does that affect discipline in the home? Discuss advantages and disadvantages.
3. Knowing your parent(s), their history and current situations, how do you think they came by their own personal style of parenting?
4. Like the three teens in the video, have you ever been afraid to tell your parent(s) the truth because you were unsure how they would react?
5. In the video, both Katey and Walter feel as if they have to do something because their parents want them to. Have your parents ever made you do something you didn't want to do?
6. At the end of the video, we see that all three teens are in some ways envious of each other because of differences in the way they were raised. Have you ever been envious of a friend's parent(s)? Why? Has anyone been envious of you and your parents?
7. Adjectives like powerless, out-of-control, loving and trusting are used to describe the characters in the video. Choose five adjectives you think describe your parent(s).
8. Because of your experience or because of what you've learned from watching this video, which parenting technique do you think might work for you? Why?

### Applications and Activities

1. Divide into small groups—this is your family. Discuss together what you think it would be like to be a parent. For each of the following, come up with five separate answers. What are:

- a. the good things?
  - b. the bad things?
  - c. the rewards?
  - d. the responsibilities?
2. Mix and match the children and the parents in the video. How would Ellie deal with Katey going to New York rather than Europe? How would Daniel react to Walter going to basketball camp? How would Marie react to Raymond,; Daniel to Katey; Ellie to Raymond; Marie to Walter?
  3. In your group, split again. One-half will be the parents and the other half the children. The children are to create a problem that the parents must solve. Use discussion to determine the best solution. Then switch roles, and come up with a new problem to solve.

## RELATED RESOURCES



### Captioned Media Program

- Negative Behavior: Positive Discipline #8165
- Parenting: Your Teen #7766
- Spanking: What to Do Instead #7649
- When They Never, Ever Listen #7801



### World Wide Web

The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **PARENTING STYLE AND ITS CORRELATES**

<http://www.athealth.com/practitioner/ceduc/parentingstyles.html>

This research digest defines parenting style, explores the types, and discusses the consequences of the different styles for children.

- **TALKING TO YOUR PARENTS—OR OTHER ADULTS**

[http://kidshealth.org/teen/your\\_mind/families/talk\\_to\\_parents.html](http://kidshealth.org/teen/your_mind/families/talk_to_parents.html)

Hang out with your parents! Read on to learn the benefits of communicating with your parents and other adults.

- **WHY DO I FIGHT WITH MY PARENTS SO MUCH?**

<http://kidshealth.org/teen/question/emotions/fight.html>

The clothes you wear. The food you eat. The color of your bedroom walls. Where you go and how you get there. Who you hang with. Explains the adjustment parents and teens go through together during the teens' independent and growing-up stage.