



## **PARENTING STYLES**

The way in which the family shares its power determines parenting style. Parenting style, in turn, impacts family dynamics. There are four parenting styles: authoritative, permissive, authoritarian and uninvolved.

### **1. AUTHORITATIVE PARENTING**

Authoritative parents

- Work as a team
- Are clear about their parenting roles and are comfortable in their roles
- Are clear about their parenting goals
- Provide strong leadership and direction
- Are assertive and decisive
- Know what is happening in their children's lives
- Discipline, support and nurture
- Make clear family norms and values
- Are loving, attentive and forgiving
- Practise right conduct and therefore set a good example
- Give children responsibility
- Set limits
- Draw out the best in their children
- Exercise authority with affection and tact
- Have warm relationships with the extended family
- Work at creating a sense of family tradition and history



## 2. PERMISSIVE PARENTING Permissive parents

- Are not clear about their parenting roles
- Take on the role of “ friends” rather than parents
- Are not clear about their parenting goals
- Fail to act as authority figures
- Are indulgent and passive
- Do not have any expectations of their children
- Do not correct their children
- Do not give children chores
- Do not let their children face the consequences of their actions
- Do not like to say **no** or to disappoint their children
- Are tolerant of their children’s wrongdoing
- Make excuses for their children
- Do not set firm limits
- Allow children to be their own authority on drug abuse, relationships with the opposite sex etc
- Evade issues because they are uncomfortable to take a moral stand
- Confuse “unconditional love” with irresponsible parenting.



### 3. AUTHORITARIAN PARENTING

Authoritarian parents

- Display little warmth
- Control their children by blaming and criticizing them
- Seek compliance and conformity
- Use anger and hostility to control their children
- Have high expectations of their children but little communication with them
- Are dictatorial
- Foster aggression in children
- Don't provide logical reasoning for rules and limits
- Do not teach self-discipline
- Use external means of discipline
- Foster irresponsibility

### 4. UNINVOLVED PARENTING

Uninvolved parenting — also called **neglectful** parenting—is a style of parenting where parents don't respond to their child's needs or desires beyond the basics of food, clothing, and shelter.

Uninvolved parents give children a lot of freedom and generally stay out of their way. Some parents may make a conscious decision to parent in this way, while others are less interested in parenting or unsure of what to do. Sometimes, there are issues at play that seem outside of a parent's control.

- Children receive little guidance, discipline, and nurturing from their parents.
- Often children are left to raise themselves and make decisions, big and small, on their own.



- Parents focus on their own problems and desires. Whether it's work, a social life apart from the children, or other interests or problems, uninvolved parents are preoccupied with their own affairs — so much so that they are unresponsive to the needs of their children, and make little time for them.

Everything else comes before the kids. And in some instances, parents might outright neglect or reject their children.

- Lack of an emotional attachment

The parent feels a disconnect, which severely limits the amount of affection and nurturing they extend to their child.

- Lack of interest in child's activities

Because of a lack of affection, uninvolved parents aren't interested in their child's school work, activities, or events.

- No set rules or expectations for behavior
- No particular discipline style is utilized. An uninvolved parent lets a child mostly do what he wants, probably out of a lack of information or caring.
- Communication is limited.
- This group of parents offers little nurturing.
- There are few or no expectations of children.

**QUESTION:**

Which style are you or which style are you more of?

What do you need to change?