

Parenting Styles Questionnaire (32-item version)

Mother's form

Name: _____ Date: _____

Instructions: The following questionnaire aims to assess different aspects of your parenting style. Please read each statement carefully and choose the answer that best describes how you or your spouse typically behave in your role as a parent. There are no right or wrong answers.

Items	Never (1)	Rarely (2)	Sometimes (3)	Often (4)	Always (5)
1. He encourages / I encourage our child to talk about the child's troubles.					
2. He finds / I find it difficult to discipline our child.					
3. He gives / I give praise when our child is good.					
4. He spanks. I spank when our child is disobedient.					
5. He punishes / I punish by taking privileges away from our child with little if any explanation.					
6. He spoils / I spoil our child.					
7. He gives / I give comfort and understanding when our child is upset.					
8. He yells / I yell or shout when our child misbehaves.					
9. He scolds / I scold and criticize to make our child improve.					
10. He grabs / I grab our child when being disobedient.					
11. He states / I state punishments to our child and does not actually do them.					
12. He is / I am responsive to our child's feelings or needs.					
13. He allows / I allow our child to give input into family rules.					
14. He gives / I give our child reasons why rules should be obeyed.					

Items	Never (1)	Rarely (2)	Sometimes (3)	Often (4)	Always (5)
15. He punishes / I punish by putting our child off somewhere alone with little if any explanation.					
16. He helps / I help our child to understand the impact of behavior by encouraging our child to talk about the consequences of own actions.					
17. He takes / I take our child's desires into account before asking the child to do something.					
18. He explodes / I explode in anger towards our child.					
19. He threatens / I threaten our child with punishment more often than actually giving it.					
20. He uses / I use physical punishment as a way of disciplining our child.					
21. He gives / I give into our child when the child causes a commotion about something.					
22. He slaps / I slap our child when the child misbehaves.					
23. He has / I have warm and intimate times together with our child.					
24. He encourages / I encourage our child to freely express (himself)(herself) even when disagreeing with parents.					
25. He scolds / I scold or criticize when our child's behavior doesn't meet our expectations.					
26. He shows / I show respect for our child's opinions by encouraging our child to express them.					
27. He explains / I explain to our child how we feel about the child's good and bad behavior.					
28. He uses / I use threats as punishment with little or no justification.					

Items	Never (1)	Rarely (2)	Sometimes (3)	Often (4)	Always (5)
29. He takes / I take into account our child's preferences in making plans for the family.					
30. He states / I state : because I said so, or I am your parent and I want you to.					
31. He explains / I explain the consequences of the child's behavior.					
32. He states / I state the reasons for rules.					

Total scores

Authoritative parenting style: _____ Authoritarian parenting style: _____ Permissive parenting style: _____

Scoring

To calculate an overall score for authoritative parenting style, average the responses to the following 15 items: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 18, 21, 22, 25, 27, 29, and 31.

For the authoritarian parenting style, mean the scores of these 12 items: 2, 4, 6, 10, 13, 16, 19, 23, 26, 28, 30, and 32.

To determine the overall score for permissive parenting style, average the 5 items: 8, 15, 17, 20, and 24.

This scoring protocol yields three continuous variables—mean scores for each parenting style—rather than categorical variables.

Interpretation

- **Authoritative parenting:** This style strikes a balance between warmth and structure, emphasizing support, affection, regulation, and fostering autonomy.
- **Authoritarian parenting:** Characterized by high demands and low responsiveness, this approach often involves elements such as physical coercion and verbal hostility.
- **Permissive parenting:** Defined by indulgence and leniency, permissive parenting focuses on granting freedoms and exhibits a lack of firm boundaries.

References

Robinson, C. C., Mandleco, B., Olsen, S. F., & Hart, C. H. (2001). The Parenting Styles and Dimensions Questionnaire (PSDQ). In B. F. Perlmutter, J. Touliatos, & G. W. Holden (Eds.), *Handbook of family measurement techniques: Vol. 3. Instruments & index* (pp. 319 - 321). Thousand Oaks: Sage.

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