

1. Punishing Approach		
Characteristics	Goals	Typical Results
Emphasizes the power of some external source (parents, courts, etc).	To control behavior by use of threats and/or punishments (take away, grounding, spanking, etc)	Child responds with rebellion, revenge, anger, sneakiness, and lacks an "internal" sense of responsibility for their choices and behaviors.
Arbitrary and usually not related to the actual act being punished (i.e., taking bike away for back talking)	To try and find some external "leverage" (punishment) to "persuade" change.	Child does not learn to connect realistic consequences to <u>their</u> choices.
Invites ongoing and escalating power struggles as child grows older. Demands obedience.	Parent constantly fighting battle to maintain power and control over increasingly autonomous child/adolescent.	Parent ends up yelling or threatening out of frustration and thereby giving up power and "genuine authority."

2. Authoritative Approach		
Characteristics	Goals	Typical Results
Uses mutual respect and grants rights, even the "right" to experience natural and logical consequences of poor choices.	To empower the child to make choices about their behavior within consistent parameters.	Child learns to make responsible "internal" choices about their behavior, instead of depending on or deceiving external controls.
Consequences are realistic and related to the act in question. Needs of others are considered.	To give child immediate and consistent feedback linking their behavioral choices to realistic consequences.	Child learns from their experiences and important values are reinforced.
Focuses power struggles "within" the child by giving child choices. Permits learning experiences.	To assist child make choices about how they can behave, within parameters set by truly authoritative parents.	Child learns to monitor their own behavior over time and make better choices between available alternatives.

3. Indulgent Approach		
Characteristics	Goals	Typical Results
Encourages child to direct their behavior based upon immediate gratification needs, while not attending to the needs of others.	To avoid a tantrum or "scene." Or, perhaps to allow parent to cope with "guilty" feelings or allow compensation for "harmed" child (e.g., post divorce, etc).	Encourages "irrational demandingness" by child. In extreme cases, family gets taken "hostage" because of child's poor behavior. Child grows up unable to manage own moods or needs.
Arbitrary and fails to connect child's behavior to consequences. Sees child as helpless victim, in spite of ability to control adults/others.	To "excuse" child from natural and logical consequences for their choices and behavior. To protect the parent from their own upset when child makes poor choice.	Child learns to manipulate others and project blame on others. Child takes the "victim" identity and plays this card when they fail. "Spoiled" child unwilling to delay gratification.
Seeks to avoid a power struggle at all costs. Allows disrespectful behavior to go unchallenged. Confuses child-age appropriate behavior with permissiveness.	To avoid conflict at all cost, but which, paradoxically, only invites more confrontation by the child towards the parent.	Parent ends up being disrespected, child has more power and control over parents than vice versa, and therefore there is no genuine "authority" to guide the child.