

Parent Attitude

Questionnaire & Analysis

If you want to put your own approach to parenting under a microscope why not fill in the following questionnaire? This will give you a good starting reference point from which to continue your journey developing future parental strategies.

The following questionnaire will help you clarify your own views on the role of the parent. It is only one indicator of your attitude, none the less it can raise interesting discussion points with your partner. Compare how you differ in your approaches. Totally contradictory results may suggest you have a unique and healthy balance in the rearing of your children, whereas very similar results may mean that you are either too laid back at times or too demanding on your child/children. Only you can decide. If your results are totally contradictory then it may lead to arguments in the home due to different perceptions on parenting.

Don't spend more than a few seconds on each question and go with the best fit to your overall attitude. Dare I suggest that you may want to complete one questionnaire for each child?

If you are totally honest, will there be identical results?

Do you expect exactly the same from your older/younger child, from your boy/girl and/or your partner's child? Alternatively, at the risk of causing a family upset it may be interesting to get your partner and your child/children to fill in one each with you in mind, to see if they see you the same way as you see yourself. Remember, it is said, *knowing yourself is the beginning of wisdom*, and growing in wisdom is the greatest quality a parent can possess in this day and age.

When completing this form assume the following: It is a normal working/school day and you're under the usual pressures of life.

Your attitude as a parent at home

Your child wants to show you something that they are proud of and you are quite busy, would you usually:

- A say, "I'm busy at the moment, show me later".
- B drop everything and give them your undivided time.
- A/B depends.

Your child asks if they can stay up for an extra half an hour but it is just past their normal bedtime and you really would rather they go to bed. Do you:

- A ensure they go to bed immediately.
- B let them stay up.
- A/B depends.

Your child's best friend has just been bought a brand new top of the range bike by their doting parents. Your child has asked for one too. Assuming money is not a problem, are you likely to:

- A refuse their request with the reasons why.
- B be open to persuasion (i.e. likely to treat them to new bike).
- A/B depends.

Your teenage child tells you his two friends are allowed to go to a renowned and dubious nightclub on Friday night. You've heard negative comments about the club:

A you don't allow them to go.

B you let your child go but warn them to be sensible and take care.

A/B depends.

You're watching an interesting TV programme and your child wants you to come up to their bedroom for a non-urgent reason. You respond by:

A saying, "After this program has finished".

B you go up and see what they want.

A/B depends.

Sunday morning is your only time of the week to have a lay in. On Saturday your child asks you to drop them off at the swimming pool early next morning. Do you:

A stick to your regular routine and suggest they catch a bus.

B play taxi driver Sunday morning and lose your lay-in.

A/B depends.

You are concerned about the amount of fizzy drinks that your child is now consuming, but your child is unhappy about cutting back. Do you:

A stick to your guns and allow them just one can now and then as a treat.

B cut them back from five cans to four cans a day.

A/B depends.

Your child wants the latest computer program but you think it's too violent. Your child reminds you that two of their friends are already playing it on their computers. Do you:

A tell them they are still not getting it and not to go to their friends and play it either.

B eventually give in and concede that you suppose times have changed.

A/B depends.

You are watching your favourite TV programme and your child comes in and asks politely if they can switch channels. Do you:

A make it clear that it will not be switched over until your favourite series has finished.

B reluctantly you allow the TV to be switched over.

A/B depends.

You ask your child a question and only get a grunt in response. Do you:

A ask the question again, eyeballing your child expecting a more civil response this time.

B just let it go, it's not worth the hassle.

A/B depends.

Your attitude as a parent about school

It is evident that your child has only made a half-hearted attempt to complete his homework. Do you:

- C suggest they go back and complete it properly.
- D overlook a less than satisfactory piece of work for a quiet life.

At the termly parents evening, your child's teacher tells you about their poor behaviour and lack of effort. Do you:

- C give your child a good talking to and let them know you will expect more effort from them in the future
- D look concerned but do very little about the situation when you get home

Now or in the past you have spent time sharing a book with your child, reciting nursery rhymes etc:

- C often
- D seldom

You talk to your child about what they've been doing at school:

- C often
- D seldom

At this moment in time are you aware of how your child is progressing at school

- C yes I've got a pretty good idea
- D I've no idea at all

At this moment in time are you aware about what subjects your child is enjoying and what they're struggling with at school:

C yes, I've got a pretty good idea.

D I've no idea at all.

When my child needs extra help:

C I am aware of the help I must give my child and support them until they begin to succeed.

D I'll pay lip service to the school, but it's really their responsibility.

I attend parent evenings, sports days and performances etc:

C on a fairly regular basis.

D not very regularly.

With regard to my child's school learning experience:

C although happiness is important, I still expect my child to be challenged.

D as long as my child is happy and contented I don't worry about him/her being challenged.

School is a major factor in improving my child's education and life chances:

C I think it is.

D not really.

The scores simply give an indication regarding your attitude as a parent. The key question to ask yourself is: Am I balanced, consistent and fair in my approach towards parenting? What might the above score weightings suggest?

	A		B		A/B		C		D
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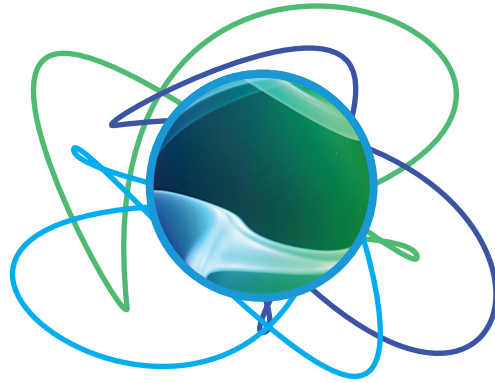
A you get your own way

B your child gets their way

A/B possibly either way (re. above)

C you have a school orientated approach

D you do not have a school orientated approach



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