

Parenting Quiz

Tick the answers you think are closest to what your answer would be.

- 1. You are at a toy store to buy a birthday gift for a nephew. Your daughter is throwing a major tantrum because she wants you to buy her a toy. As she kicks and screams, the salesman smilingly offers your daughter a small freebie. You:**
 - A. Allow her to take the doll.
 - B. Walk out of the store and say, "I know you want a toy, but you already have many. Besides, I will be buying you a toy for your birthday next month. Now stop crying."
 - C. Lead her to a quiet spot and wait till she calms down and is ready to return to the store peacefully.
 - D. Smack her wrist and say, "Is this the way to behave? Is this what I have taught you? Stop this tantrum right now!"
- 2. Your sons are fighting over a toy and the quarrel is getting ugly. One of the boys yells out in pain. The other one screams, "Serves you right. Why did you grab my toy?" You:**
 - A. Throw up your hands in despair and mutter to yourself, "Not again! God alone knows what's got into these boys. They don't give me a moment's peace."
 - B. Walk over to the kids, hear what they have to say and then discipline the one you think is responsible for the fight.
 - C. Tell the boys to sort out their problem in five minutes flat.
 - D. Separate the two of them and ask them not to play.
- 3. It is close to lunchtime and your daughter wants to go out to play. When you point out the time she starts begging for just 10 minutes to play. You:**
 - A. Say, "Alright, I'll let you go down only for 10 minutes. But you have to get back as soon as I call you."
 - B. Tell her, "Go out if you wish but make sure you're back in ten minutes; everyone wants to have lunch together."
 - C. Firmly say, "You can play outside after lunch." Repeat the same thing firmly when your child pleads.
 - D. Say, "Stop that whining right away. Go to your room and no dessert for you today as a punishment."
- 4. Your child is a dreamer and doesn't really keep track of time effectively. One morning, she dawdles over breakfast and misses her bus. You:**
 - A. Drop her to school.
 - B. Drop her to school and emphasise why it is important to keep track of time and not dawdle over tasks. Get her to promise not to dawdle again.
 - C. Wouldn't face such a situation. Your morning routine is very well organized and worked out to the finest detail.

- D. Say, "Serves you right for dawdling. Now stay home and you'll be missing your favourite class, art."

5. Your five-year old fiddles with the control panel on the television incessantly even though you have repeatedly asked him not to. You are fed up with the situation. You:

- A. Ignore what he's doing
- B. Get him a toy television to play with
- C. Move the television set out of his reach.
- D. Smack him every time he touches the television, "That will teach you not to touch stuff that's not meant for children."

6. Your six year-old's room is always a holy mess. There are toys and books all over the place. You are tired of seeing this mess every single day. You:

- A. Sigh and start tidying the room.
- B. Tell your child this kind of mess is unacceptable and ask for suggestions about how it can be tackled.
- C. Say, "You know exactly where to put your toys and books. I expect the room to be cleared in half an hour."
- D. Scoop the stuff up, yelling, "This is the ruddy limit. All these toys are going into the dustbin right now!"

7. Your 9 year-old has lost her fountain pen for the second time this term. You:

- A. Buy her another pen and ask her to be careful not to lose it.
- B. Explain why it's important to take care of stuff and tell her how much a pen costs.
- C. Ask her to use an old, leaky fountain pen for a while and save up pocket money to buy a new pen.
- D. Deprive her of a privilege like riding her bike, for a week.

8. Lots of your teenage son's friends have pierced their ears. He wants to follow suit. You:

- A. Say no, but he does it anyway.
- B. Say no, but he keeps badgering you. Ultimately you give in, on the condition that he wears a small stud, not a huge earring.
- C. You tell him you're not happy about the idea, explain why you dislike it and then ask him to take a decision by himself.
- D. Put your foot down. "How on earth could you imagine that you will be allowed to pierce your ear?"

9. It's a holiday and it's pouring. Your five year-old wants to play out of doors in the puddles. You:

- A. Say no. She points out that all her friends are outside and promises to be careful. You allow her to go.

- ❑ B. Ask her to wait till the rain stops. Meanwhile, you read her a story.
- ❑ C. Say, “Go ahead, but before you step out keep a towel and some dry clothes ready by the door so you can get dry as soon as you return.”
- ❑ D. Grimace and say, “You want to play in those filthy puddles and that too when it is raining? Don’t be absurd!”

10. You catch your three year-old drawing on the wall. You:

- ❑ A. Exclaim, “You shouldn’t draw on the walls. Sit quietly and let me clean up this mess you’ve made.”
- ❑ B. Say, “Oh no, that’s a terrific mess. I shouldn’t have left you here unsupervised with crayons and no paper. Promise you won’t do this again.”
- ❑ C. Say, “You should write on paper. Walls are not meant for writing. Now you and I will clean up the wall.”
- ❑ D. Whack her and put her in a corner.

Scoring system

All ‘a’ answers carry 0 points. All ‘b’ answers carry 3 points. All ‘c’ answers carry 4 points. All ‘d’ answers carry 6 points.

Add up your score and read the scorecard below to see how you fare.

SCORE CARD

The Overly Accommodating Parent (Score 0-12)

It’s very likely that you end up giving in to your child too often. Your child is probably very assertive and pushes you around a great deal, making you feel disparaged and annoyed. Do not for a moment believe that you are poor at parenting or are a weak individual. All you need are a handful of new strategies to deal with your child. Once you have these strategies in place, your perspective on parenting as well as your relationship with your child will be transformed radically.

The Egalitarian Parent (Score 13-30)

Evidently, you’ve been able to establish a fairly egalitarian relationship with your child. On issues of discipline, you seem to believe in collaborating, rather than colliding with, your child. Yet, you probably have a faint, nagging feeling that your parenting style could be further enhanced, especially when you find your child being unruly, despite your best efforts to be even-handed and open. Do you think you might be overdoing the democratic act?

Perhaps you should be a little more decisive and cut down on the discussions with your child on parenting issues. Sometimes, kids need to understand that adults and children are not equals. The person that bears the burden of responsibility must logically wear the cloak of authority.

Establishing this in the early years will augur well for your relationship with your child in later years.

The Centred Parent (Score 31-42)

Either you fudged the quiz or else you have a terrific parenting style. A centred parent tends to judge himself or herself harshly. It is obvious that you've worked a great deal on understanding effective parenting and perhaps your skills set you up to take even small upsets very hard. The perfect parent is a mythical character; as long as your style is effective and keeps you and your children happy, you have no reason to worry.

You're doing a great job! The more skills you gather the more you'll enhance your parenting abilities.

The High-handed Parent (Score 43-60)

If fear or favour are what drive a child to behave, it is very unlikely that he or she will develop a self-motivated sense of discipline.

High-handed parenting styles often result in children resenting authority and losing the ability to make independent decisions in adult life. Children of high-handed parents also tend to get swayed by the wrong kinds of influences. With older children in their teens, high-handed parenting could result in open revolt and even damage the relationship between parent and child, irrevocably. Honest and open communication ceases and is often replaced by silence or deceit.

Perhaps the description of an authoritarian whip-wielder doesn't quite fit you. However, you're probably not enjoying your job of parenting very much. Pretty often you catch yourself screaming at the kids, meting out physical punishment and feeling highly upset. You're trying to get the kids in line, but they're just too intractable.

Take heart! You're probably on the right track; however, you need to get the right strategies at work, to reshape your parenting style. Some fine-tuning and restraint on your basic style is very likely to help. Armed with the right strategies, you'll find life as a parent getting better and better!