**Quick Overview of 4 General Parenting Styles**

1. [**Authoritarian Parenting**](http://psychology.about.com/od/childcare/f/authoritarian-parenting.htm)  
   In this style of parenting, children are expected to follow the strict rules established by the parents; no negotiation. Failure to follow such rules usually results in punishment. Authoritarian parents fail to explain the reasoning behind these rules. If asked to explain, the parent might simply reply, "Because I said so." These parents have high demands, but are not responsive to their children. According to Baumrind, these parents "are obedience- and status-oriented, and expect their orders to be obeyed without explanation" (1991).
2. [**Authoritative Parenting**](http://psychology.about.com/od/childcare/f/authoritative-parenting.htm)  
   Like authoritarian parents, those with an authoritative parenting style establish rules and guidelines that their children are expected to follow. However, this parenting style is much more democratic. Authoritative parents are responsive to their children and willing to listen to questions. When children fail to meet the expectations, these parents are more nurturing and forgiving rather than punishing. Baumrind suggests that these parents "monitor and impart clear standards for their children’s conduct. They are assertive, but not intrusive and restrictive. Their disciplinary methods are supportive, rather than punitive. They want their children to be assertive as well as socially responsible, and self-regulated as well as cooperative" (1991).
3. [**Permissive Parenting**](http://psychology.about.com/od/childcare/f/permissive-parenting.htm)  
   Permissive parents, sometimes referred to as indulgent parents, have very few demands to make of their children. They resist exerting control over their child's behavior in favor of creativity, praise and warmth. These parents rarely discipline their children because they have relatively low expectations of maturity and self-control. According to Baumrind, permissive parents "are more responsive than they are demanding. They are nontraditional and lenient, do not require mature behavior, allow considerable self-regulation, and avoid confrontation" (1991). Permissive parents are generally nurturing and communicative with their children, often taking on the status of a friend more than that of a parent.
4. [**Uninvolved Parenting**](http://psychology.about.com/od/childcare/f/uninvolved-parenting.htm)  
   An uninvolved parenting style is characterized by few demands, low responsiveness and little communication. While these parents fulfill the child's basic needs, they are generally detached from their child's life. In extreme cases, these parents may even reject or neglect the needs of their children.

**Examples of each:**

[**http://theattachedfamily.com/?p=2151**](http://theattachedfamily.com/?p=2151) **(Teen example)**

**Permissive**

Three year old grabs a toy from friend: no intervention; believe child should be able to express himself and learn to take what he needs in life. In some cases, the permissive rationalizes that her child was the rightful owner of the toy to begin with.

Five year old requests additional snack: “Sure, you can have whatever you’d like to eat” (no limits or restrictions)

Sixteen year old wants to go to a late-night party at a friend’s house who is known to be wild: “Sure, have lots of fun!”

**Uninvolved**

Three year old grabs a toy from friend: no intervention and no attempt to rationalize

Five year old requests additional snack: no offer of snack or in extreme cases, no response (neglectful)

Sixteen year old wants to go to a late-night party at a friend’s house who is known to be wild: “Whatever.”

**Authoritarian**

Three year old grabs a toy from friend: “Give that back right now!”

Five year old requests additional snack: “Nope; you know you are only allowed 1 snack!”

Sixteen year old wants to go to a late-night party at a friend’s house who is known to be wild: “No way! I know what Jessica is like and I wouldn’t be surprised if alcohol was involved!”

**Authoritative**

Three year old grabs a toy from friend: "I understand you would also like to play with this doll." This parent also enforces limits by saying, "Your friend is playing with this toy now. Perhaps in a few minutes, you can take a turns playing with the toy."

Five year old requests additional snack: responds to his child's hunger but does not grant free-rein in the kitchen. This parent might say, "You may have an apple and peanut butter or a piece of string cheese."

Sixteen year old wants to go to a late-night party at a friend’s house who is known to be wild: “You can go as long as I talk to her parents about the details and I go inside to check things out first.”

Uninvolved parents offer little affection, and they do not respond consistently or sensitively to her child's needs. Uninvolved parents also fail to set limits on behavior or expectations. When watching her 3-year-old grab a toy from another child, the uninvolved parent makes no attempt to rationalize or justify the behavior, nor does she intervene. When a kindergartener comes home hungry, the uninvolved parent doesn't offer a healthy snack. In extreme cases, the uninvolved parent doesn't offer a response at all to her child's hunger.

[**http://everydaylife.globalpost.com/examples-four-parenting-styles-1346.html**](http://everydaylife.globalpost.com/examples-four-parenting-styles-1346.html)