

Parenting Style: Four Types of Parents

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One way of categorizing parental style splits differences along two gradients, then four categories. Responsiveness addresses how much attention a parent pays to the child's needs, demands, and unique temperament. Highly responsive parents attempt to foster individuality and independence by being attentive, supportive, and responsive to the child's needs and demands.

Demandingness, or behavioral control, is how high the parent's expectation is for obedience and "fitting in" to the social norms. Demanding parents set clear goals and expectations, confront a child who disobeys, and disciplines when limits are crossed.

Most theorists recommend "authoritative" parenting which merges high expectations (demandingness) with high attention to the child as an individual (responsiveness.)

Sources: http://pediatrics.about.com/od/infantparentingtips/a/04_pntg_styles.htm;

www.athealth.com/Practitioner/ceduc/parentingstyles.html; www.greatdad.com/tertiary/27/1744/choose-your-parenting-style.html

