

Parenting Style Index

This is the latest version of our parenting style measure. The first 18 items (MY PARENTS) alternate between the involvement (odd numbered items) and psychological autonomy-granting (even items) scales. All of the psychological autonomy items are reverse scored, with the exception of #12. The last 8 items (MY FREE TIME) compose the strictness/supervision scale. Note that each of the last two questions has three items.

Authoritativeness can be scored as a continuous variable, or scale scores can be used to classify families into theoretically meaningful categories. For illustrations of each, see the following references:

Steinberg, L., Lamborn, S., Dornbusch, S., & Darling, N. (1992). Impact of parenting practices on adolescent achievement: Authoritative parenting, school involvement, encouragement to succeed. *Child Development*, 63, 1266-1281. (Continuous scoring).

Steinberg, L., Lamborn, S., Darling, N., Mounts, N., & Dornbusch, S. (1994). Over-time changes in adjustment and competence among adolescents from authoritative, authoritarian, indulgent, and neglectful families. *Child Development*, 65, 754-770. (Categorical scoring).

MY PARENTS

Please answer the next set of questions about the parents (or guardians) you live with. If you spend time in more than one home, answer the questions about the parents (or guardians) who have the most say over your daily life.

If you STRONGLY AGREE with the statement, put a 4 on the line next to it.
If you AGREE SOMEWHAT with the statement, put a 3 on the line next to it.
If you DISAGREE SOMEWHAT with the statement, put a 2 on the line next to it.
If you STRONGLY DISAGREE with the statement, put a 1 on the line next to it.

- ___ 1. I can count on my parents to help me out, if I have some kind of problem.
- ___ 2. My parents say that you shouldn't argue with adults.
- ___ 3. My parents keep pushing me to do my best in whatever I do.
- ___ 4. My parents say that you should give in on arguments rather than make people angry.
- ___ 5. My parents keep pushing me to think independently.
- ___ 6. When I get a poor grade in school, my parents make my life miserable.
- ___ 7. My parents help me with my schoolwork if there is something I don't understand.
- ___ 8. My parents tell me that their ideas are correct and that I should not question them.
- ___ 9. When my parents want me to do something, they explain why.
- ___ 10. Whenever I argue with my parents, they say things like, "You'll know better when you grow up."
- ___ 11. When I get a poor grade in school, my parents encourage me to try harder.
- ___ 12. My parents let me make my own plans for things I want to do.
- ___ 13. My parents know who my friends are.
- ___ 14. My parents act cold and unfriendly if I do something they don't like.
- ___ 15. My parents spend time just talking with me.
- ___ 16. When I get a poor grade in school, my parents make me feel guilty.
- ___ 17. My family does things for fun together.
- ___ 18. My parents won't let me do things with them when I do something they don't like.

MY FREE TIME

1. In a typical week, what is the latest you can stay out on SCHOOL NIGHTS (Monday-Thursday)?

I am not allowed out	_____
before 8:00	_____
8:00 to 8:59	_____
9:00 to 9:59	_____
10:00 to 10:59	_____
11:00 or later	_____
as late as I want	_____

2. In a typical week, what is the latest you can stay out on FRIDAY OR SATURDAY NIGHT?

I am not allowed out	_____
before 8:00	_____
8:00 to 8:59	_____
9:00 to 9:59	_____
10:00 to 10:59	_____
11:00 or later	_____
as late as I want	_____

3. How much do your parents TRY to know...

		Don't try	Try a little	Try a lot
Where you go at night?	_____	_____	_____	
What you do with your free time?	_____	_____	_____	
Where you are most afternoons after school?	_____	_____	_____	

4. How much do your parents REALLY know...

		Don't know	Know a little	Know a lot
Where you go at night?	_____	_____	_____	
What you do with your free time?	_____	_____	_____	
Where you are most afternoons after school?	_____	_____	_____	