

Hello everyone! Today's topic is "American Parenting Culture"

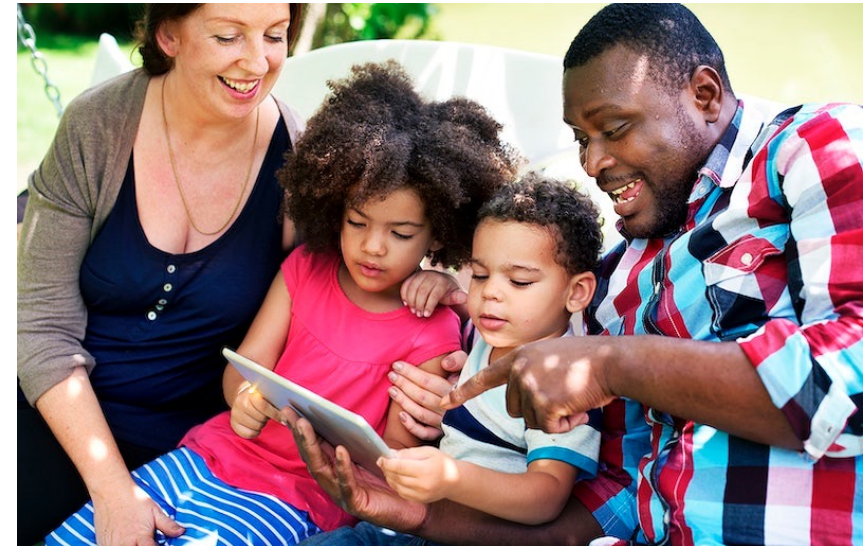
Every country has its own special style of parenting, which is based on its culture, traditions, and way of life.

In the U.S., parenting styles vary by individual values and beliefs, as well as economic circumstances.

We can, however, identify certain common characteristics of parenting that are practiced in the United States.

Activities:

1. Review common American parenting characteristics
2. Role-play parenting scenarios
3. Wrap-up questions and comments



Key Characteristics of the American Parenting Style

- “Authoritative” Parenting Style
- Nuclear Families
- Adult Child Relationships

The Four Parenting Styles



“Authoritative” Parenting Style

Considered the “Ideal” Parenting Style in the U.S.

- Parents are warm and loving.
- Provide guidance, nurturing and attention.
- Children should be self-motivated, not forced by parents.



Not Authoritarian!

Authoritative Parenting Style

- You put a lot of effort into creating and maintaining a positive relationship with your child.
- You set limits, enforce rules, and give consequences, but take your child's feelings into consideration.
- You explain the reasons behind your rules.
- You allow your child to question and negotiate rules.



Authoritative Parenting Characteristics:

The parents are in charge and establish clear rules but they:

- Listen to their child
- Validate their child's emotions
- Consider their child's feelings
- Use consequences that teach life's lessons
- Offer incentives
- Let their child make little choices
- Balance freedom with responsibility
- Turn mistakes into learning opportunities
- Encourage independence and resourcefulness





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Instead of
scolding, use
love and
empathy to
address issues
with **children**.

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Nuclear Families

- Parenting is an individual task, not a societal task.
- Extended family are not involved in the raising of the children.
- Extended family involvement is considered interfering.



Nuclear Families vs. Extended Families

Most common in the U.S.

Nuclear Family



Parents and children only in the household.

VS

Extended Family



Parents, children, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, living nearby or sometimes in the same house.

American Adult Children

- Parents do not choose what their child studies at college (their major).
- Parents do not choose a career for their adult child.
- Parents do not choose a spouse for their adult child.
- Parents are not expected to emotionally and financially support adult children.
- Parents are generally not involved in the daily lives of their adult children.
- It is common for adult children to live far away from their parents.

Do You Know What These Parenting Terms Mean?

- Coddling
- Giving a “timeout”
- Playdates
- Helicopter parents
- Lawnmower parents
- Latchkey kid
- Being “grounded”
- Kids menu
- Extracurricular activities



American Parenting Styles

Role-play

SCENARIO #1: THE BOY NEXTDOOR

You recently moved to the U.S. from your home country. Your seven-year-old son has made friends with a boy who lives next-door. This boy's name is Jason.

Jason and his parents are Americans. You know the parents only a little, and have occasional small talk when you see them in their driveway.

Lately your son has been going to Jason's house on the weekends. He and his friend like to play video games together. He goes inside the house and is there for several hours.

In your home culture this is considered very rude. In your view it is an intrusion on the neighbor's privacy, especially on a weekend. You are worried about what to say or do.

Questions:

- 1. What do you think the American parents are feeling about this?**
- 2. What do you think you should do?**

American Parenting Styles

Role-play

SCENARIO #2: THE SLEEPOVER

Your eight-year-old daughter had been invited to a friend's house for a "sleepover."

Your daughter is very excited to have a sleepover with her friend.

You're happy your daughter has made a friend.

You do not know the parents of the friend. You have never been to their house.

In your culture this is totally unacceptable.

What would you do?

SCENARIO #3: THE AWKWARD QUESTION

You volunteer at your son's high school and interact with other parent volunteers.

Recently your son and his classmates took the college admission test "the SAT"

Your son earned a very high score!

You tell the other parent volunteers your son's score, and ask them what their child scored.

The American parents give you a strange look and do not answer your question.

Why?

American Parenting Styles

Role-play

SCENARIO #4: THE AMERICAN SON-IN-LAW

I have a grandson, aged seven. My daughter married an American man. We are from Japan.

I believe that my grandson spends way too much time playing video games.

His American father seems to be ok with it.

How can I tell my son-in-law that my grandson should not spend so much time playing video games.

And that he should spend more time studying.

Questions:

- 1. Should you discuss this with your son-in-law?**
- 2. What would you say to your son-in-law?**
- 3. What would you say to your grandson?**