

# Analysis of “The authoritative parenting style: Warmth, Rationality and high standards” by Gwen Dewar, PhD.

Authoritative parenting is a parenting style where the parents expect a lot from their children but are willing to help them achieve the goals. When we talked in class it was called a democratic approach to parenting. I was pretty unaware of this style of parenting until our class discussion. As we talked I decided that this is the kind of parent I want to be. After reading articles on parenting styles it has solidified my opinion that this is the best parenting style. This approach may take some effort and practice but it seems like the best way to raise successful children.

According to Gwen Dewar, PhD, authoritative parents take the best characteristics from permissive and strict (authoritarian) parenting (Dewar, 11 and 12). She states that authoritative parents are responsive, nurturing, and involved like permissive parents. However, they don't allow their children to get away with bad behavior like permissive parents do (Dewar, 11). Both strict parents and authoritative parents enforce rules, but only authoritative parents enforce the rules with high levels of warmth and emphasize the reasons for the rules (Dewar, 12).

Authoritative parents attempt to reason with their children, explaining why we have rules and teaching the children to want to obey the rules.

We discussed another parenting style in class called the “Love and Logic” approach. To me, Love and Logic is classified as authoritative parenting. Love and Logic focuses on three main points which are: 1- Take care of yourself. 2- Provide choices whenever possible. 3- Let the consequences do all the teaching. These main points are in accordance with the authoritative

parenting style. These types of parents focus on love and warmth rather than harsh consequences.

According to the article “The authoritative parenting style: Warmth, rationality, and high standards” authoritative parents have been linked “with the most successful child outcomes” (Dewar, 1). It continues that children with authoritative parents are more likely to become well behaved, academically successful, and socially accepted (Dewar, 2). They are also less likely to suffer from anxiety, depression and drug use. Authoritative parenting seems to work so well because of the inductive discipline used. Inductive discipline is when parents explain the reasons for expected behavior to their children instead of just having them obey because the parents told them to do so.

In our class discussions we talked about attachment disorders and that children with authoritative parents are more likely to develop secure attachments and be protected from having problems with internalizing problems. Authoritative parents encourage independence from their children which fosters more self reliance, better problem solving, and emotionally healthy children. It has also been linked to help children become more helpful, kind and popular (Dewar, 34 and 35). Children raised by authoritative parents are more likely to have stronger bonds and relationships with their parents.

As Gwen Dewar PhD stated, “The authoritative parenting style is consistently associated with superior outcomes, and it has never been linked with bad outcomes.” I hope I can be an authoritative parent to my children and be able to teach them to want to obey.

