

Analysis of “Permissive Parenting: Why it’s Bad For Parents and Kids” by Kenneth N. Condrell PhD.

Permissive parenting is an ineffective form of parenting. Permissive parenting is characterized by parents who give in to every demand the child makes. One sign of permissive parenting is giving children options when none are required. Another sign is disguising orders by asking questions. Permissive parents give up their authority to their children.

According to “Permissive Parenting: Why it’s bad for Parents and Kids,” Kenneth N. Condrell PhD, child psychologist, states that permissive parents give up their authority rather than assert it. Children with permissive parents tend to be “self-centered, demanding, unresponsive to adult requests, and oblivious of the impact of their behavior on others” (Condrell, 14). Permissive parents tend to have children with poor manners, social skills and a lack of respect for authority. Permissive parenting isn’t just bad for the kids; it is also bad for the adults. Children will learn that their parents will give in to their demands if they keep complaining so their behavior will continue to get worse. Kids will push the limits and continue to become more spoiled. Parents will always buy the next great toy for their kids and exhaust themselves trying to keep up with the demands to keep the child happy.

Recently, I had an experience with permissive parenting. I was spending some time with family, including my cousins who have two little girls, ages 3 and 1. Even though we had discussed permissive parenting in class and I had read articles concerning the dangers, I could not help using permissive parenting techniques. I found myself asking the 3 year old if she would like to leave the toys inside so we could go eat. I should not give her the opportunity to

say no, which she did, repeatedly. My wife and I were both trying to coax her to leave the toys inside, but ultimately my wife took them from her, said it was time to eat and that she could play after dinner. I always expected to be more of a strict parent but this experience showed that I also have a permissive side. I am not very good with younger children because whenever they start to cry, I kind of panic.

While playing with the one year old I realized how easy it is to give a child's demands. I was pushing her on a swing and she kept making a strange face. So I thought she was not feeling well and needed to stop swinging. I tried to take her out of the swing and she would scream. So I would put her back and keep pushing her. After a short time she would begin making that sick face again so I would stop and try again. She still cried. So I gave in again. The third time she made the face I decided I really didn't want to clean up baby vomit, so I braved the ensuing screaming I took her from the swing and found another toy for her to play with. Every time I would try and take her from the swing she would scream harder. This experience reinforced the things I learned in class and in the article by Kenneth Condrell, PhD.

I will have to work very hard not to be a permissive parent. Luckily I don't have any children yet so I can practice with someone else's kids. As Kenneth Condrell PhD said in his article "Permissive parents often have the habit of making ambiguous requests when they need to direct and clear" (Condrell, 13). These types of statements encourage children to say "No." He continued, "The child disagrees with the parents, undermines their authority, and these situations usually end with the child being in charge of the parent." Hopefully I will be able to overcome my tendencies of being a permissive parent and help my children learn and grow.