

Parenting styles



The Shouter

Super short fuse. Takes their frustrations out on their child especially after a long day or when they're finding their life tough. Often too busy to cope well. Too much on their plate. Finds excuses to lash out even if the child has done nothing wrong. Impatient.

Thinks: If I'm in a bad mood I've got every right to let it out

Might say to child: "Don't you kids ever stop talking. Just leave me alone. Shut up. Go to your room and give me some peace and quiet".

The Hot and Cold Tap

Mega mood swings. Parent seems emotionally immature and possibly unstable. Constantly changes the way they talk to child. One moment they are loving and talkative, the next moment they clam up, scream shout and may use sarcasm.

Thinks: I try to be consistent with my child but sometimes it's too hard. I don't really feel confident as a parent. I don't know really what I'm doing and why my child behaves that way.

Might say to child: "Come here and read a story with me". Then five minutes later, "I don't have the time for this. Why are you always in my way? Go to your room. Go and play by yourself"

The Ice King/Queen

Blank expression and unfriendly tone of voice. Doesn't show much affection or emotion. Rarely praises. Criticizes easily. Doesn't particularly engage the child in conversation unless it's too ask (often nag) child to do something. Not very interested in child.

Thinks: Parenting is not really my thing. Children should be seen and not heard. I can't wait for him to grow up.

Might say to child: Nothing at all or criticism. Could be sarcastic.

The Best Friend

Has a runaway mouth. Is over concerned, fusses over the child. Does things for the child. Shares too much. Talks about personal issues with child as if child was an adult. Asks their children too many personal questions. Wants to know exactly what's happened during child's day in great detail. Very needy and usually insecure about their parenting.

Thinks: her kids are just extensions of herself. Thinks only I can "rescue" them and they are my best friends. Doesn't discipline much or stick to rules very strongly because afraid my child won't like me. Also thinks I really don't like it when my child is upset so I'll avoid ever letting them feel upset.

Might say to child: I'm so glad you're here to have dinner with me tonight otherwise I'd be on my own. If you want a.....I'll try and get one for you.

The overorganizer

Is very regimented. Has strict routines but is inflexible with them. Expects child to fit into his/her life and routines without any fuss. Child will be beautifully dressed -but not allowed to get a dirty mark on clothes or spill food. Might be very neurotic about nursery routines. Might be quite a strong disciplinarian.

Thinks: I'm so organized. Why can't the rest of the world be like me

Might say to child: "Be careful. Don't get dirty and I'll be back to collect you at 4.22. Be standing by the door with your coat on/bag ready, waiting for me"

The chaotic parent

Can't organize his/her way out of a paper bag! Can't get the children up in the morning (can't get his or herself up) so children come late to nursery. Might not have appropriate clothes. May or may not have had breakfast. Parent doesn't believe in discipline and let's child do pretty much what he or she wants to do. Rules are not a big part of this family's life. No boundaries for child. Very relaxed approach to child. May have a big warm heart and be very emotionally attuned to child.

Thinks: All you need is love!

Might say to child: "If you want to do that, go and do it. You have my blessing". "But I have no idea where your shoes are today!"