

16 Distinguish Between Three Parenting Styles

TRANSITION OBJECTIVE

Students will participate in an activity to learn to distinguish between three styles of parenting.

RELEVANCE TO SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

At its best, parenting is a rewarding, yet challenging and life-changing task. For teenagers and young adults who have become parents early in life, parenting can be overwhelming. One of the most important skills a parent can learn is how to keep as much balance in their lives as possible.

INSTRUCTIONAL SEQUENCE

❑ STEP 1: Update Journal

I will be a fair parent . . .

❑ STEP 2: Convene Roundtable

"One thing I respect about my parents is _____."

❑ STEP 3: Advance Organizer

"Today you will learn how to stay balanced in difficult parenting situations."

❑ STEP 4: Activity - 15 Minutes

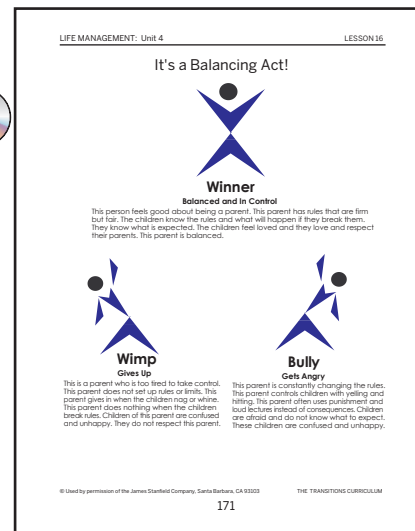
In pairs, have students give examples of things their parents do to express their love to them. Ask pairs to share an idea with the class. Next, have pairs share three things their parents do that they would like to change. Again, have pairs share one idea with the class.

❑ STEP 5: Activity - 30 Minutes

Explain the idea of staying balanced as a parent, using the handout **It's a Balancing Act** as a guide. Go over the parenting styles of a "Bully," "Wimp," and a "Winner." Using the illustration from the handout demonstrate the balance between these parenting styles by standing with your arms out like a T. Show the "Bully" parent by leaning to the right and the "Wimp" parent by leaning to the left. Explain that these parents are out of balance. Stand straight to demonstrate

the "Winner" parent. Explain that this parent is balanced. Have students stand up and demonstrate the three parenting styles.

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LIFE MANAGEMENT: Appendix A UNIT 4: LESSON 16

Which Parent?

1. Parent talks with child about not running in the mall and explains that the next time she runs she will sit on the bench for five minutes. **Winner**
2. Yells and spanks child for running in the mall. **Bully**
3. Parent chases child through the mall and finally gives up and waits for him to come back. **Wimp**
4. Parent yells and spanks the child in the store when he asks for candy. **Bully**
5. Before going into the store, parent tells child that he will not get any candy and if he asks for candy, he will not get dessert after lunch today. **Winner**
6. Parent buys candy for child to get him to stop yelling in the store. **Wimp**
7. Parent discusses with the child the type of consequence he should have if he does not go to bed on time. They decide on a fair consequence and agree on the bedtime rules. **Winner**
8. Parent yells and takes the car keys away from teenager in front of friends because a poor progress report was sent in the mail. **Bully**
9. At a different time each night the parent screams at the child to go to bed and tells him a monster will get him if he doesn't hurry. **Bully**
10. Parent sets a rule with the child that toys are put away before watching TV. **Winner**
11. Parent lets the child stay up late and watch TV until she falls asleep. **Wimp**
12. Parent decides the daughter will clean the garage and makes her cancel having her friends come over. The daughter has kept her room clean and finished her chores all week so she could have company. **Bully**
13. Parent tips over toys. After trying to get the child's attention away from the TV to pick up the toys, parent gives up. **Wimp**
14. Parent gives the car keys to the teenager after he yells at his mom telling her that she is ruining his life. **Wimp**
15. Parent turns off the TV and spanks child for leaving toys on the floor. **Bully**
16. Parent tells her daughter she can have friends over if she keeps her room and bathroom clean and does her chores all week. **Winner**
17. Parent gives in when his daughter brings friends home even though he had told her there would be no friends at home until her room was clean. **Winner**
18. Teenager can use the family car on Saturday night if he brings home a weekly grade report showing his homework and classwork was done all week and his grade was at least a C. **Winner**

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To prepare for the game **Which Parent?** have students make game cards by writing the parenting styles on three 3" x 5" cards. To play, read the statements from the game **Which Parent?** and give students ten seconds to select the game card that best describes the statement. After ten seconds, ask

students to hold up their cards. Students use the gameboard to move their game marker. For a correct answer, students move forward three spaces. For an incorrect answer, students move backward one space. Play until all statements are read. Reward the winners of the game with applause. Summarize by reviewing the three types of parents and encourage students to keep balanced.

❑ STEP 6: Evaluate Outcomes

It is important for parents to stay balanced because "_____."

❑ STEP 7: Connecting Activity

Go to a park or mall to observe families. Find at least one example of the three types of parents, *Winner*, *Wimp* and *Bully*. Prepare a short presentation describing the situation and behavior of the families you observed. Ask students to suggest ways the wimpy or bully type parents can become winner parents.

KEY WORDS

balanced

in control

bully

wimp

gameboard

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

- Student Handouts: **It's a Balancing Act!**, page 171; **Which Parent?**, Appendix A, page A12; **Gameboard**, page 142.
- Prepare for discussion.
- Prepare a screen image and become familiar with handout. Prepare for game.

SCANS FOUNDATION SKILLS

- Basic Academic Skills: Listening, Speaking
- Thinking Skills: Problem Solving, Reasoning
- Personal Qualities: Responsibility, Self-Management, Integrity/Honesty