

Parenting: A Comparison Between Middle Eastern and American Parenting Methods in the United States

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Authoritative	Permissive
Characterized by high expectations of compliance to parental rule, an open dialogue about those rules and behaviors and a child-centered approach (Olowodunove 2011).	Also known as indulgent parenting: in this parenting style there are very few demands made on the child. Permissive parents are non-traditional and lenient (Cherry).
Characteristics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Express love and affection Promote responsibility and freedom (All 2011) Exercise control (Olowodunove 2011) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few standards of behavior and rules Usually loving and nurturing towards children Seem more like a friend than a parent Use toys, gifts and food to sometimes get children to behave (Cherry)
Results	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children are more adaptable, competent, and achievement-oriented Have good social skills, low levels of aggression, and high self-esteem (All 2011) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children often rank low in happiness and self-regulation More likely to experience problems with authority Tend to perform poorly in school (Dewar 2010)
In both America and the Middle East this is the most popular form of parenting.	This parenting style does not adequately provide the opportunities to meet the maturing needs of a developing child.



(McGolerick, Photograph)

Effective Parenting

Occurs when the parent or guardian provides basic needs to a child: clothing, food, shelter and psychological and emotional support. As the child grows older, the values/morals taught to the child remain and parents continue practicing this style with their children. In all the case studies carried out, about 90% of the parents agreed with our definition of effective parenting.



("Arab Children's Clothing")

Islam	Christianity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent must train them in loving God, the Prophet Muhammed (phub), and reciting the Qu'ran 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should punish their children and reward them when necessary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent must give him a good name, teach him to read and write, marry him by a proper age, and display kindness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach the child to obey and know God's Will
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach him to pray by the age of seven 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents should love their children (Pratte 2005)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By age ten punish him for not praying and separate their beds (Rights 2011) 	



Hadith: [Sayings of the Prophet(phub)]

"One, who follows the orders of Allah with regards to obeying parents, shall have two doors of paradise opened up for him."
- Kanzul 'Ummal, Volume 16, Page 67(Forty)



(Cynthiana Christian Church)

Bible:

"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."
- Ephesians 6:4

Middle East: Collectivistic Culture	American: Individualistic Culture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rights of families and communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rely on themselves
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasize family and group goals above individual needs and desires (Rohm 2006) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Personal achievement" at the expense of group goals; results in a strong sense of competition (Rohm 2006)

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Conclusion

The definition of effective parenting we created was developed after examining case studies. The biggest differing aspect we found was that most parents from the Middle East did not continue to practice the same form of parenting as their parents used when raising them. In the US, the most popular form of parenting for both Americans and Arabs is the authoritative style. Religion plays a big role for most Middle Eastern parents, while American culture also influences Arab parenting styles.