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

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<th>Authoritative</th>
<th>Permissive</th>
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<td>Characterized by high expectations of compliance to parental rule, an open dialogue about those rules and behaviors and a child-centered approach (Olowodunove 2011).</td>
<td>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).</td>
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**Characteristics**
- Express love and affection
- Promote responsibility and freedom (All 2011)
- Exercise control (Olowodunove 2011)
- 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**
- Children are more adaptable, competent, and achievement-oriented
- Have good social skills, low levels of aggression, and high self-esteem (All 2011)
- Children often rank low in happiness and self-regulation
- More likely to experience problems with authority
- Tend to preform poorly in school (Dewar 2010)

This parenting style does not adequately provide the opportunities to meet the maturing needs of a developing child.

**Effective Parenting**

**Islam**
- Parent must train them in loving God, the Prophet Muhammed (phub), and reciting the Qu’ran
- Should punish their children and reward them when necessary

**Christianity**
- Parent must give him a good name, teach him to read and write, marry him by a proper age, and display kindness
- Teach him to pray by the age of seven
- By age ten punish him for not praying and separate their beds (Rights 2011)

**Middle East: Collectivistic Culture**
- Rights of families and communities
- Emphasize family and group goals above individual needs and desires (Rohm 2006)

**American: Individualistic Culture**
- Rely on themselves
- “Personal achievement” at the expense of group goals; results in a strong sense of competition (Rohm 2006)

**Middle East: Collectivistic Culture**

**American: Individualistic Culture**

**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.

**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

**Hadith**
- “One, who follows the orders of Allah with regards to obeying parents, shall have two doors of paradise open for him.” - Kanzul ‘Ummal, Volume 16, Page 67 (Forty)