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IO3-Blended Learning Module for Educators

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CHILDREN WITH BEHAVIORAL DIFFICULTIES

LEARNING UNIT 1

PARENTAL ATTITUDES

Parents' child-rearing attitudes are of great importance for the child to grow up healthy and develop a positive personality structure. Positive child-rearing attitudes contribute to the child being a beneficial individual for himself and the society in the future (Yavuzer, 2003; Yörükoğlu, 2004).

The concept of attitude is the psychological preparedness that organizes the thoughts, feelings and behaviors of the individual (Kağıtçıbaşı, 1999). The family is a social unit that ensures the continuation of human life through biological relationships, where the socialization process is experienced by continuing the relations with certain rules and the transfer of certain material and spiritual riches resulting from this socialization between generations is ensured (Baydar, 1990; Sayın, 1990). The responses, beliefs and emotions that parents give to their children in a way that affects social, psychological and personality development also constitute the attitudes of parents (Yavuzer, 1998; Güney, 1998).

As the youngest members of the society, the children who are the future assurance of the society are those who have grown up in healthy family relationships. The attitudes of the parents who are responsible for the child's care can be affected by their own personality and demographic characteristics or the characteristics of the child. If children are to be socially and mentally competent, non-oppressive, flexible and tolerant parents are needed. Oppressive, overly tolerant, insensitive parents cause uncontrolled behaviors in children. While educating their children, parents should first know the developmental characteristics of their children, and they should be adults who respond appropriately to their needs (Yörükoğlu, 1995; Yavuzer, 2001; Nelsen, & Glenn, 2002).

Parental attitude should be paid attention to as it will affect the child's healthy development and social relationships. The positive attitude exhibited contributes to the child's being a beneficial individual for himself and the society in his future life (Yavuzer, 1999).



Parents' attitudes can generally be examined under the headings of oppressive authoritarian attitude, overprotective attitude, permissive attitude, inconsistent attitude, democratic attitude, and rejecting attitude.

1. Authoritarian Attitude

It is the child-rearing attitude in which control is high and acceptance-interest is low. The mother and father try to shape the child according to social standards. Parents see themselves as the representative of social authority. Submission is regarded as a virtue. The child is expected to comply and obey the rules unconditionally. The parents tend to shape and control the child's behavior according to absolute criteria which does not stretch at all. It is an attitude that destroys the child's self-confidence and disregards his personality. This kind of attitude is common in our traditional family production. Parents apply strict discipline and the child is obliged to obey every rule. The child, who is under the pressure of one or both parents, may have a resentful, insignificant, timid, highly sensitive and introverted structure, despite being quiet, gentle, kind, honest and attentive. The supervised child in the authoritarian family environment, where the dimensions of supervising and withholding love are dominant, have no idea about which behavior will get which reaction. The child is afraid of doing wrong every step he takes. He's afraid of trying something new. His level of independence is low and a sense of responsibility is not developed. He can lie to avoid punishment. The child feels worthless. There may be a feeling of inferiority. The child's external control is high and internal control is low. Since internal control does not develop, he fails to control himself when there is no parental control (Yavuzer, 2011; Yılmaz, 1999).

The child who grows up in this type of family loses his internal control and becomes an externally controlled individual because he obeys the oppressive words and behaviors of the parents, that is, he behaves as he should be, not what comes from within. In addition, he sometimes reacts strongly to his parents because he feels guilty and unloved with these words. The responding child may also lose his self-esteem because he feels inadequate (Yavuzer, 2005). Oppression, intimidation and pressure in this attitude are considered as a kind of emotional abuse since they negatively affect the personality development of the child (Yörükoğlu, 1992).

While authoritarian parents keep their children under pressure, they also use methods such as embarrassing, humiliating, belittling and making fun of them. These attitudes give negative results in the child. Faced with such an attitude, the child cannot express himself, becomes a timid and passive person. Because when the child does not accept the pressure, he knows that he



will be excluded and punished. In such children, anger and hatred appear instead of love for parents (Aydın, 2002).

2. Protective Attitude

Mothers and fathers have a basic duty to meet the basic needs of their children and to protect them as much as possible against dangers from the environment. Protection motive is also at the core of these tasks. However, some parents perceive protection as their children are dependent on them and therefore behave constantly intrusive and protective towards them (Aydın, 2002). This attitude is mostly seen in the mother-child relationship. The mother acts overprotective on her child in order to overcome her own emotional loneliness (Yavuzer, 2005). This attitude of the mother causes the child to be spoiled, rebellious, stubborn, sometimes dependent and timid (Ekşi, 1990).

3. Permissive Attitude

These parents are very tolerant of their children. They do not put any restrictions on their children's behavior. Since the emotional bond between parents and children is weak, the relationship between them is also weak, but the parent sometimes shows closeness and warmth to the child (Yılmaz, 2000). In such families, the child is almost the only individual with a say in the family. The lack of healthy communication between the parent and the child, and the exaggerated love shown to the child make him an insatiable person (Yavuzer, 2005).

4. Inconsistent Attitude

An unstable-indecisive attitude is observed as a result of the difference of opinion between the parents or the variable behaviors of the mother or father. Parents criticize each other for the child, next to the child. The positive attitude of one of them is evaluated as negative by the other or one of the parties favors the child. Whether the behavior is in the appropriate or inappropriate class depends on the mood of the parents.

The child cannot understand what behavior is not desired when and where. The child does not think whether the behavior is right or wrong, but whenever he does it he knows that he will get off the punishment. The formation of a value system in the child is prevented. The child conflicts with himself and his parents (Aydoğmuş, Batlaş, Batlaş et al., 1990; Yavuzer, 2011).



5. Perfectionist Attitude

These parents themselves are people who grew up in difficult conditions and later reached a good socio-economic level. Others are not easily satisfied because they want their children to reach places they cannot reach. What their children eat, drink, and their friends are constantly under their constant control and they behave in an intrusive manner (Aydın, 2002).

With this attitude, the child learns about conditional love. The thought that the better they are themselves, the more their parents will love them causes the love they nurture to be conditional love. Therefore, they can not show success in human relationships. Since they want to live a perfect life away from negativities, they experience unhappiness in every negativity they encounter (Öz, 2005).

5. Rejecting Attitude

This attitude occurs when the child is not wanted. Parents often make the child feel unwanted by insulting or leaving him. This causes the child to feel insecure and unconfident towards people. Since the child does not receive affection, love from his parents, he does not feel affectionate towards himself. Since the children are constantly afraid of losing what they have, they can not be successful in their relationships with people (Tuzcuoğlu, 2004).

6. Democratic Attitude

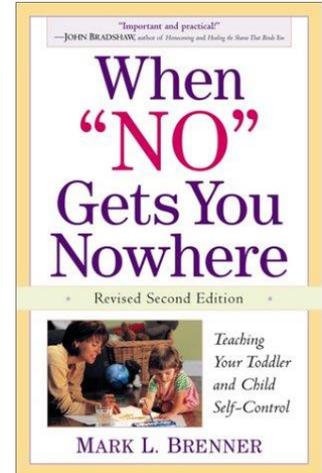
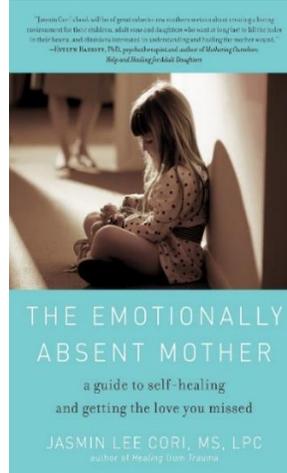
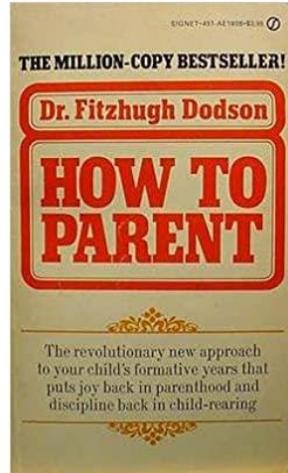
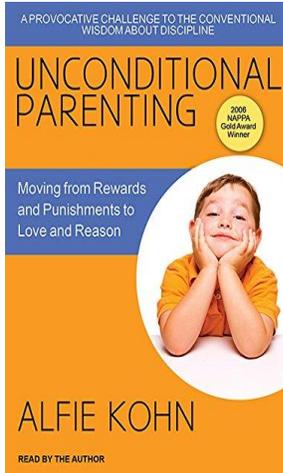
Parents who take a democratic attitude towards their children behave rationally in giving direction to their children. In this attitude, parents accept and value the child as an individual for their child to gain an independent personality (Kulaksızoğlu, 2009). Insightful, flexible parents pave the way for positive emotional, social and cognitive development in children. These parents give their children freedom with acceptable limits rather than obstruction. All of these prevent the child from worrying while getting to know his / her environment and ensure success in interpersonal relationships (Yavuzer, 1996).

Children of democratic parents are friendly, sociable, and prone to active experience in their environment. They show assertive attitudes towards social issues. They are often creative, independent and successful. According to the parents, the way to discipline the child is not deprive him of love. Love and tolerance are the behaviors of parents that should be presented unconditionally. A child who grows up in democratic families becomes an individual who can realize himself and express his thoughts by developing a sense of trust (Kulaksızoğlu, 2009).

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Book Suggestions



Video Activities

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jOrGsB4qG_w

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4VOubVB4CTU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsSFrBhUvKA>



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