

CHARACTERISTICS OF PARENTING THAT PROMOTE ACADEMIC SUCCESS

The following three approaches to parenting are key to promoting academic success in children. While all parents fall somewhere between the extremes, research strongly indicates that parents who are closer to acceptance, firmness, and autonomy have children who are more successful in school.

Acceptance <—————>Rejectance

Accepting parents are affectionate, frequent in their praise, involved in their child's life, and responsive to their child's emotional needs.

Children raised by accepting parents feel that they can turn to their parents when they have problems, that their parents encourage them, that their parents enjoy spending time with them, and that their parents are dependable sources of guidance or assistance.

Firmness <—————>Leniency

Firm parents have clear rules that the child is expected to follow and they set clear expectations that the child will behave in a mature and responsible fashion. They are consistent.

Children raised by firm parents know what their parents expect of them and know that there are consequences for violating their expectations.

Autonomy <—————>Control

Parents who support autonomy in their children tolerate and encourage their child's sense of individuality. They encourage their child to express himself or herself and enjoy watching their child develop into a separate and autonomous individual.

Children raised to be autonomous feel that self-expression is a valued trait, and that their parents' love and respect for them is not contingent on having the same opinions and ideas as their parents. They know that it is important for a person to speak up for what he or she believes.