

DISCIPLINE ROLE PLAYS

Discuss as a class where they believe they have learned to discipline children.

Explain that family discipline can be broken down into three categories. They vary by the attitude of the adult about how much control he/she feels is necessary to guide the children.

One type is called **permissive** discipline. Here the child is in control and is allowed to do whatever he/she wants to do. The child follows his/her own moods and desires causing overaggressiveness and confusion for the child. These children often wonder if anyone cares about them.

Another type of family discipline is **authoritarian** or adult control. The adult completely controls the child, causing loss of independence, submission, or rebellion. This is similar to a dictatorship style of government.

The third type of family discipline is **democratic**. It is based on a belief in the worth, dignity, and creative capacity of every individual. The child is given opportunities to think for himself/herself and learn to be aware of the rights of others. It is concerned with individual freedom. Limits are set, but the child is allowed to act for himself/herself within those limits. These children tend to feel that they are responsible for their decisions and actions.

Divide the class into three groups. Each group will represent one type of discipline. Have students role-play the following situations, according to the discipline type they have been assigned.

1. A family is making plans for a vacation. The little kids want to go to Disneyland. The teens want to stay home and do what they want. The parents had wanted to take all the children camping and spend time together.
2. A class has been assigned to prepare a special bulletin board for back-to-school night. It must select a theme, plan the bulletin board, and provide the necessary supplies to complete the assignment. One person has been assigned as the class leader.
3. A family is going to the ice cream store for ice cream cones. There are five local ice cream stores. One specializes in shakes and malts, one specializes in sundaes, and one specializes in less-expensive soft cones. The children range in ages from 3-15.
4. A family is considering moving to a larger home. It will require that the children attend a new school, but it is located in the same city. The children range in ages from 2-10.

Have the class gather together and discuss the outcomes of their various role-plays.