

My third move will cover the topic of different parenting styles by race, Asian, African-American, and caucasian. Each race has its stereotypical way of parenting. So, does one race necessarily have better parenting styles? Each race has its plusses and minuses when it comes to parenting. Asian-American parents are typically authoritarians, demanding much from their children and placing high expectations for them. When these expectations are not met, punishments are dealt. Caucasian parents are typically authoritative parents, still holding expectations for their children, but to a much lesser extent than Asian-American parents. They are lenient when these expectations are not met, giving punishments that are not as severe. African American parents are viewed as not being involved with their children as much as Asian or Caucasian parents. However, they can also be seen as authoritarian parents as well, using corporal punishment to get a point across. Now, I am not saying that this is how parenting is in each race. There are many African American parents who are authoritarian and there are many Asian-American parents who are not involved with their children as well. This is just how each race is viewed as a whole. One major component that separates these races is the teachings of independence versus interdependence. One who is independent is one that can fend for themselves, do things on their own. Interdependence is defined as being dependent on others.

Caucasian parents are concerned with the child's ability to be independent and assertive at a young age. The sense of independence in a child's life gives them an influence that they are in charge of their own self. The sense of being in control builds up self esteem. Asian parents, on the other hand, focus more on obedience, reliability, and achievement. In order to keep family relations steady there needs to be obedience. This is often drilled into the children at a young age and they typically carry this throughout their lives. Family first is also something that is emphasized at a young age. Children are expected to obey rules and to respect elders and authority. Children of Asian families have been said to typically have strong relations with their family. However, they seem to have a more difficult time adapting to American culture and pleasing their traditional Asian parents. These Asian-American teens also may experience cultural identity problems, often questioning who they really are and what to identify with. Do they identify with their American or Asian culture? Independence is viewed as a an attack or threat on the family bond as the children feel less privileged as some of their American friends. In a study conducted by Chang Rhee, "Caucasian students reported having more friends than their Asian counterparts. This finding suggests that Asian American teenagers may have higher levels of social isolation, greater social rejection, and possibly poorer interpersonal skills" (Rhee, Chang, & Rhee, 2003).

Another study suggests that Caucasian teens voice their opinions to their parents with more assertion than Asian American teens who watch what they say. “This is perhaps the Asian American teens are afraid of disapproval from their parents, and in an interdependent family unit, disapproval from the parents is a huge burden on the teen as well. This suppression of emotion and failure to openly express one’s personal concerns may cause bottled up frustration, which may also lead to lower self-esteem and depression. The fact that the Asian adolescents who did communicate more openly with their parents had higher self-esteem confirms this idea (Rhee, Chang, & Rhee, 2003).”

African American parents on the other hand use completely different methods of parenting on their children. They tend to use an authoritarian and disciplinary style of parenting. White children are allowed to explore on their own; they are offered more freedom. Black children, however, are told to be quiet and respectful in public and to obey the rules. These children need to be on their best behavior to portray that they are not thugs. I hate to say this, but it is very true. Whenever one sees an African American act out of place in public, that person often thinks that person is a thug or is up to no good. If a white child acts out of place, society just seems to accept it and tend to think the child is cute or funny. This all falls under the category of racial profiling which has been an egregious problem facing this country for many years. This is why African American children, including parents, need to be on their best

behavior in public. They need to show that they are peaceful and civilized. I definitely know that this applied to me when I was a child and still applies to me to this day. My parents always want me to give a good first impression in public. They do not want me to fit the black stereotype of sagging pants and illiteracy and neither do I.

In 2002, The American Sociological Association published a study which concluded that African American parents use an authoritarian style of parenting. This is definitely true as it pertains to the paragraph above. I would consider my parents as more authoritative, but with a hint of authoritarian when it comes to presenting myself and my family in public. “The study involved 302 African American adolescents and their mothers, and revealed that Black parents have more a take-charge philosophy to parenting than their white, middle-class counterparts. The study states that black parents may be more harsh on their children in an attempt to prepare them for a world that is filled with discrimination and societal biases that do not favor people of color.”

Discipline plays a key role in the authoritarian style of parenting in many African American families. The topic of whether corporal punishment should still be used today has sparked great controversy across the country. Corporal punishment has been carried down for years since slavery in the United States was around. Back in the 1900s and the early 2000s,

corporal punishment was common in nearly every African American household. Why is it viewed as frowned upon today's society? When did this change of view happen? For example, Adrian Peterson, an African American National Football League star player was suspended for seven games without pay as punishment for striking his four year old son with a branch from a tree. He also received a fine of four-thousand dollars, he must complete eighty hours of community service, and must complete parenting classes. Peterson claimed that this was supposed to be used to teach his son a lesson and that he was beaten as a child by his parents. Back in the early to mid twentieth century, corporal punishment was common in many households, but for some reason today, many oppose it. Why? When did this evolution occur? No one really knows when and why it happened.