

The Three Ways of Discipline Explained

Authoritarian

Discipline Strategy: Rewards and Punishment

Bottomline: The teacher's feelings and needs are more important than the student.

Teachers who come from the model of authoritarian discipline strive to control children. This model is all about having personal control over the children (and remember! Control is not the same as student responsiveness). Teaching success in this discipline style is the children are listening and obeying you without trouble or misbehavior. Teaching failure is NO control of the children. The survival strategy is punishing children who disobey in a very public way. The public aspect creates fear for the others to "shape up." Using this method can create a fear-based environment and deep feelings of shame in children. This is the most popular form of discipline. Almost all teachers resort to it on some level at some time in their teaching career.

Accommodating

Discipline Strategy: Bribing and Bargaining

Bottomline: The child's feelings and needs are more important than the teacher's.

Teachers in this style measure their worth by the approval of the children. Teachers will find themselves treating the children almost as if they are equals - catering to their needs and whims. Be clear - This is NOT the same as being interested driven. These teachers often take on "giving the children freedom" but with loose and undefined boundaries. Often in this model, teachers will reach a breaking point with children not listening and "lose it." Success in this style is not as defined but driven by teacher insecurity. There can be a sacrificial feeling to the teacher as they fight for control. The survival strategy is offering bribes or bargaining for obedience. Over use of

this method results in the teacher being in fear and creates a deep feeling of being out of control for the children.

Soulful Discipline

Discipline Strategy: Logical consequences and problem solving skills

Bottomline: The feelings and needs of the community are most important.

Teachers in this model have a deep commit to giving children social and emotional skills. This model is based on the idea that everyone is important in a community. The soulful discipline strives to keep the community of learners connected. The survival strategy is problem solving. This method is rooted in love and acceptance and creates a deep feeling of belonging.

DON'T SKIP THIS STEP. This is your starting point.