

Quiz for Parents

by

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Hear Our Cry: Boys in Crisis

Directions: Read the question and choose one response that aligns as closely to what you think you might do in that situation, and circle that letter. There is no right or wrong response.

1. Your son has a history of not doing his homework, but lately he has been getting better. You ask your son if he has done his homework. He tells you he has already done it. You ask to see the homework. He replies, "Don't you trust me? I can't do anything to please you." Which of the following responses best describe what you would say?
 - A. "Your homework record has not always been very good. I want to see the homework."
 - B. "Don't talk to me in that tone of voice. I don't deserve that."
 - C. "Do you feel like I am treating you like a little boy?"

2. Your 16-year-old son wants to go out on Friday night with a group of his friends. You have not met the boys. How would you handle his request?
 - A. I would tell him to go ask his other parent.
 - B. I would tell him he could not go because hanging out with a group of boys is a good way to get in trouble.
 - C. I would ask him with whom he is going and what they were going to do. I would tell him I wanted to meet his friends.

3. Your son has won a school wellness poster project contest. As the winner he gets a year of free gymnastics lessons. He begs you to let him take the gymnastics lessons. What would be your response?
- A. I would ask him why he wants to take gymnastics and let him know that once he starts he must finish it.
 - B. I would say no because he might get seriously hurt.
 - C. I would ignore the request because it is probably just another phase he is going through and things will change in a week or so.
4. You overhear your son talking with his friends and he curses. How might you react?
- A. I would tell him that it is unacceptable language, make him come in the house and tell his friends to go home.
 - B. I would talk with him later about the cursing and ask him if he thought using that kind of language makes him a grown-up?
 - C. I would ignore it because that is normal behavior for a boy.
5. You get a call from your son's teacher. She informs you that your son has been teasing an overweight boy in his class who just got glasses. What would be your response to this information from the teacher?
- A. I would let her know that my son would never tease someone about his weight or about wearing glasses. She must be mistaken.
 - B. I would be shocked and let her know that I will deal with my son the minute he gets home.
 - C. I would ask the teacher what she has done so far and ask her for a time we could meet to discuss the problem.

6. Your teenage son says that his best friend, John, is allowed to drink beer at home in front of his parents. He explains that John's parents say they would prefer their son drink at home and be safe rather than sneak around. Your son thinks that John's parents are "cool" and he wants the same arrangement. How would you respond?
- A. I would tell him how disappointed I would be in him if he had a drink at John's house and that I trust him to not disappoint me.
 - B. I would ask him why he thought that was cool, and I would call John's parents and tell them that under no circumstances are they to serve my son alcohol.
 - C. I would tell my son that John's parents are breaking the law and that someone should report them to the police. I would not allow my son to hang out with John anymore.
7. You find a *Playboy* magazine under your 10-year-old son's bed. What would you do?
- A. Ignore it because that is perfectly normal behavior for a boy his age.
 - B. Confront him and let him know that you do not allow such magazines in your house.
 - C. Create an opportunity to talk with him about the exploitation of women in magazines.
8. Your son participates in a sport. He has been complaining that the coach is unfair and has been picking on him. What would you do?
- A. Ask your son a few questions to determine how you might help him resolve the conflict between him and the coach.
 - B. Schedule a conference with the coach and tell him that you do not like the way he is treating your son.
 - C. Tell him that is the way it is. Boys who play sports have to take the heat. Coaches talk that way to make athletes stronger and better.

9. Your son is 14 and he wants to go to a different church because he has more friends who go to that church. What would you do?
- A. Tell him that going to a different church is not an option at his age.
 - B. Offer to visit the church with your son and then talk about the differences.
 - C. Allow my son to attend the other church because it is important for him to have friends in church.
10. You have a four-year-old son. His uncle taunts him until your son cries. Your son is afraid of the uncle and gets panicky when you tell him his uncle is coming over. How would you handle this situation?
- A. Tell my son that he needs to stand up to his uncle if he does not like what he is doing. "Son you can't let people run over you."
 - B. Explain to my son that some people tease to show they really like you. "Your uncle teases everyone he likes. He really loves you."
 - C. Confront the uncle and explain that his teasing must stop or he can't come over to your house.
11. Your son decides he wants to take ballet lessons. How would you respond to his request?
- A. Ask him what he plans to do if other boys tease him, and tell him that you will support him in his decision if that is what he wants to do.
 - B. Explain to him that other boys will tease him so you will find a teacher in a nearby city so people won't know he is taking ballet lessons.
 - C. Tell him that is not a thing a boy does; girls take ballet, not boys. He should go out for team sports.

12. Your son comes home from school and shares with you that a group of boys have been teasing him at school, calling him a sissy and a fag. What would you do?
- A. Schedule a conference with the school officials and insist the teasing stop or you will take matters into your own hands.
 - B. Talk to your son about defending himself, even when that means he must fight them.
 - C. Help your son identify what his options are and let him know that you are there to help him if his options don't work.
13. Your spouse has told your 12 year-old son to clean up his room. After complaining, your son cleans his room. Your spouse inspects the room and demands that your son come back and do it right. An argument between your son and your spouse ensues and begins to escalate. What would you do?
- A. I would not interfere with the conversation between my son and my spouse but talk to my spouse later about how the situation was handled.
 - B. I would offer to help my son clean his room showing him how to do it properly.
 - C. I would let my son know that my spouse was correct and he needs to do what he is told.
14. Your 7th grade son is an excellent student in school. His teachers love him but he has no friends. You suspect that he is being teased by other boys because of his "nerdy" behavior, but your son is not talking to you about this. He spends all of his spare time reading books and working on the computer. What would you do?
- A. I would encourage him to become involved in some sport, even if his grades drop a little.
 - B. Make him an appointment with a psychologist who specializes in adolescent behavior.
 - C. Take away his computer to make him spend time with people.

15. You are divorced. Your 14 year-old is scheduled to stay with his other parent this weekend. Your son refuses to go because one of his friends has invited him to a sleepover. How would you handle this situation?

- A. I would tell him I understand that he wants to be with his friends but remind him that the court has taken the matter out of my hands and he must spend the weekend with his other parent.
- B. I would tell him that is not an option. Case closed.
- C. I would remind him that his other parent loves him and needs to spend time with him. I would encourage him to discuss the matter with the non-custodial parent, but not seeing his other parent is not an option.

Analysis of Responses Parent Style Inventory

Directions: By the question number, locate the response you circled on the inventory. Place an X on top of that letter. Count the total number of responses you mark in each column and record that number at the bottom.

Question #	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
	Response		
1	A	B	C
2	B	A	C
3	B	C	A
4	A	C	B
5	B	A	C
6	C	A	B
7	B	A	C
8	C	B	A
9	A	C	B
10	A	B	C
11	C	B	A
12	B	A	C
13	C	B	A
14	C	A	B
15	B	A	C
Totals			

For more information about the attributes of brick-wall, jellyfish, and backbone parenting styles, refer to Chapter 7, pp. 73-81, *Hear Our Cry: Boys in Crisis*, 2004, aha! Process, Inc., Highlands, TX.

Column 1 = Brick-wall responses
 Column 2 = Jellyfish responses
 Column 3 = Backbone responses