**1. Permissive** — “Hey! I love you!” (or) “Do whatever you want.” Adults who favor a permissive discipline style have warm relationships with their children, but they establish few boundaries on behavior. These parents are unable to shape their children’s present or future actions.

**2. Authoritarian** — “Do what I tell you and do it now!” (or) “Do it because I said so!” Adults who display this style value unquestioning obedience from children above all else. If you believe that such discipline style is effective with children you are mistaken. It is not.

**3. Uninvolved** — “I’m not interested in you or what you do.” (or) “Can you not see how busy I am?” Adults who are self-absorbed or overly committed focus on their own needs and spend little or no energy on the children in their care. There is simply no time to relate to children or guide their social behavior.

**4. Authoritative** — “I care about you. I expect you to behave appropriately inside and outside our home. If you don’t know how to behave, I will teach you.” This discipline style combines the positive attributes of the authoritarian and permissive styles, while avoiding the negative ones.

Authoritative discipline best develops self-discipline in children. Adults respond to children’s needs with warmth while establishing high standards and clear expectations for behavior. This style makes children feel important by allowing them to assume appropriate responsibility for those things they take on. Children will be willing to take a healthy amount of risk because they see this is likely to produce growth and understanding. Mistakes made while attempting one task are likely to promote success in some future endeavor. Children also learn the personal skills that help them meet their needs in socially acceptable ways.