

Welcome to the Counselor Corner

It is difficult being a parent—I have raised 4 children and know every day can be a new challenge. I have learned that there are basically three kinds of parents. Look below and see if you are a drill sergeant or a helicopter. If you are, consider changing to a consultative parent.

For more information go to: <http://loveandlogic.com/>

Drill sergeant parents tell kids: “Do it! Do it now! and Do It My Way or else!” Every choice has a consequence imposed by the parent; every privilege has a behavior attached to it.

The messages that drill sergeants send to their children are: You can’t make your own decisions; you can’t think how to solve problems so I need to do it for you; you will never make it without me to tell you what to do.

Helicopter parents hover closely over their children in order to intervene during problematic times, stressful situations, etc. What helicopter parents may not realize is that this can be detrimental to their children’s growth and maturity. If a parent steps in every time their child needs a problem solved or makes a mistake, children do not learn to rely on their own abilities.

Often Dads are drill sergeants and Moms are helicopters. Dad thinks Mom is too soft and vice versa. This is a very ineffective way to parent and often the children become unconfident and angry. Try being consultants

Examples of consultative parents

“Do you want juice or milk?”

“I want pop!”

“Nice try. Do you want juice or milk?”

Consultant parents allow kids to decide about small things.

Consultant parents hope that their kids make small mistakes so they can learn before they make big mistakes. Consultant parents know that kids will make mistakes. After all, they are kids! Consultant parents allow kids to solve their own problems as long as it doesn’t cause problems for anyone else. Consultant parents do not own their children’s problems.

Consultant parents say what *they* will do.

“I will be glad to wash any clothes that are in the clothes hamper.”

There are great resources at the above website and most public libraries have copies of **Love and Logic** parenting books.



