PS

Parenting Scale (PS)

The Parenting Scale is a self-report instrument designed to measure maladaptive parenting practices, particularly in managing young children's difficult behaviors. It enables psychologists to identify problematic parenting styles such as permissiveness, harshness or inconsistency, and to adapt clinical support accordingly.

Number of questions	30 questions
Estimated duration	10 minutes
Language	English
Original name	Parenting Scale
Target audience	Parents of children
Authors	Arnold DS, O'Leary SG, Wolff LS, Acker MM (1993)
Category	Parenting

Preview of the 30 questions

Your style of parenting during the past two months:

When my child misbehaves...

1 - I do something right away. | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 - I do something about it later.

Your style of parenting during the past two months:

Before I do something about a problem...

1 - I give my child several reminders or warnings. | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 - I use only one reminder or warning.

Your style of parenting during the past two months:

When I'm upset or under stress...

1 - I am picky and on my child's back. | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 - I am no more picky than usual.

Your style of parenting during the past two months:

When I tell my child not to do something...

1 - I say very little. | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 - I say a lot.

Your style of parenting during the past two months:

When my child pesters me...

1 - I can ignore the pestering. | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 - I can't ignore the pestering.

Scoring & interpretation

Each question is rated on a 7-point Likert-type scale, where the endpoints correspond to two opposite ways of handling the same parenting situation. Scores can be calculated for the overall total as well as for three main subscales: Laxness, Harshness and Inconsistency. A higher score indicates a more marked use of ineffective parenting strategies.