PARENTING STYLES OF THE 21ST MILLENNIAL PARENTS... A CONTINUING CHALLENGE

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We are now living in the new millennium, an era characterized by rapid urbanization, new inventions, fast track life and so forth. In the family, the parents find it difficult to do their respective roles as fathers and mothers. The way the present parents were brought up before seems to be uncalled for today.

How can the fathers and mothers cope up with their millennial children now? Shall we allow the children to do what they want or tighten the rope around them?

The responsibility of raising disciplined, values-oriented and well-rounded children can sometimes feel overwhelming for parents today. The recent trend in parenting has become much more diverse, which reflects the different cultures and backgrounds of “millennial children.” Family structures are becoming more eclectic as children grow up in settings, such as both parents working, which can create the need for help from family, friends, and day care. There are also many single parents, blended families, or very young parents. Although, these family dynamics have been present for decades, they are more prevalent in the 21st century.

The new millennium poses increasing pressures for parents as they are bombarded with advices offering the best parenting practices. Which one suits for us?

Parenting Styles in the New Millennium

Identifying all the current parenting styles can be a difficult task due to the frequent addition of new ones. However, some key styles being utilized by parents in the new millennium fall under five broad categories, namely:
Hyper-parenting: Parents using this style have set goals for their children and are determined for them to be successful no matter what.

Hypo-parenting: More of a hands-off approach, this type of parenting allows children to have more control of their decisions, prioritizes individuality, and gives importance to children’s uniqueness.

Traditional/neo-parenting: This style, which in many ways, follows the parenting style of the 50s and the 60s, leans on the traditional practice wherein one parent plays the role of the primary caretaker, while the other one is responsible for meeting the family’s financial obligations.

Divergent parenting: This parenting style is not recommended, and is often present in many dysfunctional families. It can be characterized as an “anything goes” approach or striving to shun conventions.

Millennial parenting: This category encompasses the major parenting styles. It reflects the complexity of modern American life where both parents work and use non-traditional ways for bringing up their children.

Parenting styles evolve over time and can change to meet the children’s needs, well-being and sometimes their demands. While at times there is the need to be stern with children, there are also occasions when parents can loosen the reins and adopt a more permissive approach. Millennial parents may subscribe to a particular style, but many tend to use an approach that provides more encouragement and can improve the children’s capabilities to achieve greater success. An empirical study suggests that a balanced parenting approach produces the best outcome for children to do well in life.

The best thing parents can do for their children is to give them roots (foundation) and wings (freedom). There is no one best solutions or techniques, the success lies on an open communication with your children. Your quest of being a good parent continues every single day what is important is your unconditional love and unselfish effort to support your child in every way you can regardless of whichever parenting style you wish to impose.
References: