



The PLS Leadership Style Model

An overview of adults' leadership styles in relationships with children and a practical guide to the Authoritative Leadership Style.

Authoritative Leadership Style in relationships with children
Family - Kindergarten - School - Culture

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High
Leadership, boundaries, rules and expectations

Structure

Read more and download your copy at www.familab.no/en/



Unclear leadership, rules and expectations.

Low

Authoritarian

Coercion
Punishment

"You must listen to me, I don't need to listen to you"

Dominance values
Strength, power, winning
Dominance hierarchy

Controlling
Lots of rules, for you

Task focus
Expectations without support

Can't tolerate other people's opinions
Rigid, inflexible

Physical/verbal aggression

Aggressive categorization and labeling

Stability
Observe and oversee

Precise instructions
Tolerate opinions and disagreement

Reasonable adaptations and adjustments
Learning processes

Mentalization
Self-reflection

Stress regulation

Neglectful

Absent
Confusion
Chaos

Survival
"No one talks to or listens to each other"

Distanced
Low emotional support and warmth
Passive

Busy

Uninterested

Indifferent

Uninvolved

Few/no expectations and boundaries

Authoritative

Adults' perspective, plan and needs
Well considered, fair, mutual, consistent expectations, rules, decisions, structure and system

Value-based assessments
Engagement

Practical and natural consequences

Stability
To protect

Personal boundaries
Positive limit setting

Mutual skills learning
Participative decision making

Reciprocity and cooperation
Safe error correction

Role clarification
Collaboration on problem-solving

Task and relationship focus
Reflection

Flexible, fair, situation-based decisions and leadership
Autonomy support

Kindness
Softness

Caring
Explanations

Warmth and closeness
Guidance

Perspective taking communication
Listen and understand

Repair
Fun and humor

Play and exploration

The child's perspective, needs and initiative

Comfort
Contact

Intonation

Flexibility
Tolerate emotions and crying

See positive actions and characteristics

Permissive

Avoidant
Avoid confrontation

Overly adaptive
Can't tolerate disagreement and discomfort

Relationship focus
Reverse hierarchy

Warmth and closeness
Caring values

"I'm very happy to listen to you, it's not that important with me"

Few rules and boundaries
Low expectations

Overprotective

Coldness, low support and responsiveness.
Low communication, understanding and coordination

Warmth

Support, responsiveness, perspective-taking, autonomy support. High communication, understanding and coordination

High

The Authoritative style is considered the best for children's development, relationships, mental health and learning motivation

Leadership styles based on Baumrind, Dreikurs, Lewin, Skinner etc.