



At the end of the lesson, the student will be able to:

- *describe different parenting styles
- *discuss the benefits and drawbacks of each parenting style
- *classify different factors that can make a child successful



Dialogue:

To you and the thousands of other parents who are miserable because of what you have done to your children, I say this: Stop **berating** yourselves. You did the best you could with the tools at hand: inexperience, clay feet, the works. No one knows why some children turn out to be champions in spite of parents who provide precious little emotional **nourishment**, while other kids, who are loved, wanted, tenderly **nurtured**, and have all the so-called advantages, turn out **perverse**, **estranged** and unable to cope with life.

I have come to believe in the generic factor, though this has been ignored by many modern behavioral scientists. We all inherit our nervous systems, and if the nervous system is fragile, it places severe limitations on what a person can **tolerate**.

Certain individuals are born survivors. They can withstand life's Harshest blows and emerge the stronger as a result. Others crumble in the face of minor adversity. The same fire that melts butter can make steel strong.

And let us not overlook personal responsibility. I am sick of hearing children blame their parents for messing up their lives.

People with all sorts of handicaps can and do make it in this demanding and competitive world.

For those who are hooked on **dope**, there are drug-abuse centers with trained personnel, eager and waiting to help. For individuals who need professional counseling, there are mental health clinics.

The self-help groups do a remarkable job getting people to take control of their lives; and they are free!



Let's Talk:

- 1. What determines if our children become successful or not?**
- 2. How many psychologists believe that genetic factors are the key to character?**
- 3. What's wrong with someone who blames his parents for his screwed-up life?**
- 4. What does it mean to "stop berating yourselves".**



Express Yourself:

1. What is the most important factor in a successful life?
2. How do some children from poor or single-parent families manage to become successful?
3. Some children from rich families who get good educations fail dreadfully. Why?
4. How can we instill a sense of personal responsibility in our children?
5. What's your definition of a "successful life"?
6. How did your parents bring you up? Give examples.
7. Do your children agree with your philosophy in life? Is that good or bad?