



HOMELESS TRAINING INSTITUTE

# UNATTENDED CHILDREN



*How to talk to parents about their children's behavior*

**EMPATHY**

**PARENTING IS HARD UNDER IDEAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

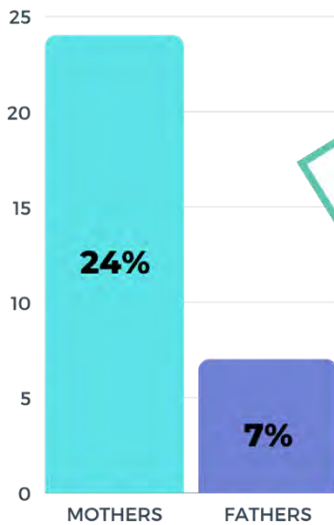
Parents who leave their children unattended are more likely to suffer from a \_\_\_\_\_ illness.

\_\_\_\_\_ parents are more likely to leave their children unattended.

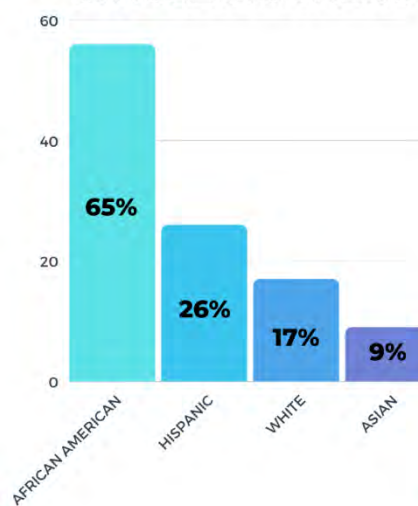
... which has \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ justice elements.

**MANY SITUATIONS ARE NOT IDEAL**

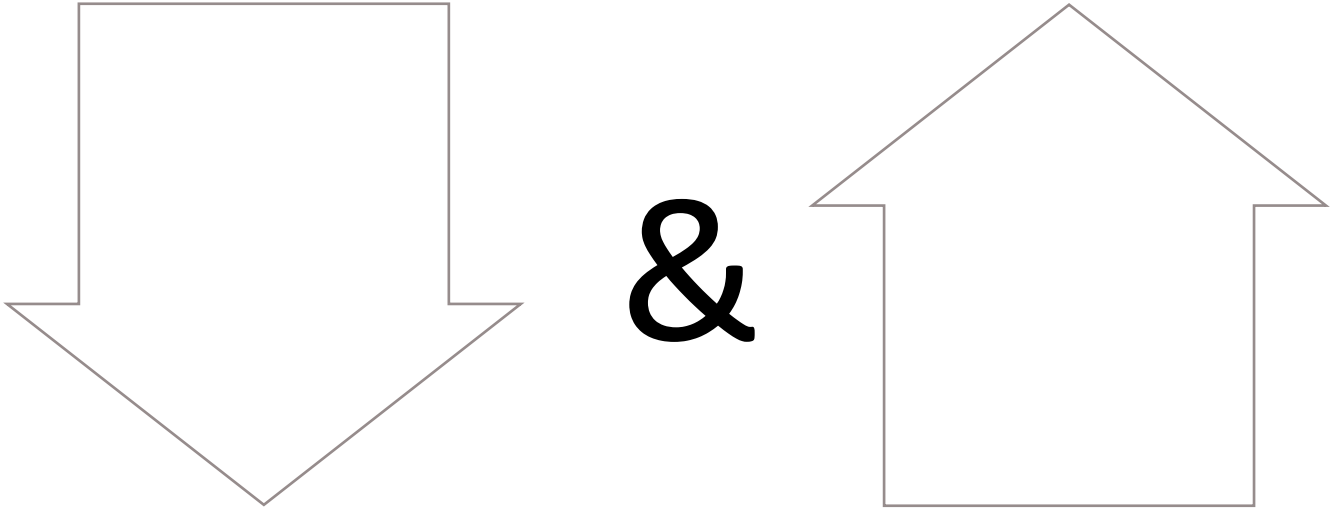
**SINGLE PARENTHOOD**



**SINGLE MOTHERS**



Basically, **POVERTY** makes people



## POVERTY AND PARENTING



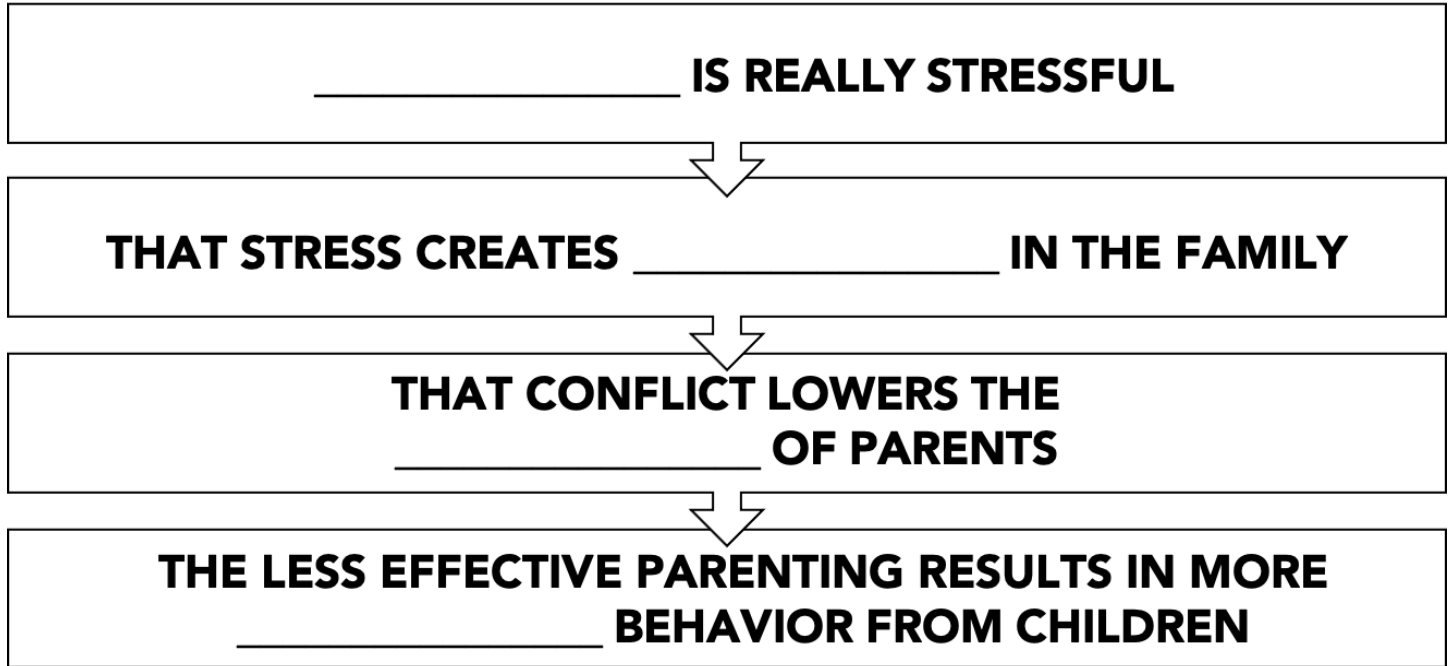
It all started with these two guys, Rand D. Conger and Glen H. Elder.

They are university professors and \_\_\_\_\_ researchers.

They developed a theory called the “ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ”.

It has been validated over and over again in different contexts all around the world.

Here is an oversimplification of it:



**But wait... it gets worse!**

There was a research study that looked at new mothers and their \_\_\_\_\_ response to their infant crying.

\_\_\_\_\_ mothers had less response in their:

👉 \_\_\_\_\_ Prefrontal Gyrus

👉 \_\_\_\_\_ Prefrontal Gyrus &

👉 \_\_\_\_\_ Temporal Gyrus

**and even worse...**

New mothers undergo drastic changes in levels of several hormones, including \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. These changes help people \_\_\_\_\_ to parenthood.

Chronic stress from \_\_\_\_\_ messes with cortisol and oxytocin.

If you took our Homelessness 201 training, you recall that \_\_\_\_\_ lowers mental bandwidth, which effects parenting...

\_\_\_\_\_ is hard. Parenting while poor is \_\_\_\_\_ hard.

Have a little \_\_\_\_\_.

# GOOD PARENTING IS A CULTURAL CONSTRUCT

“Good parenting” is a construct created by a culture.

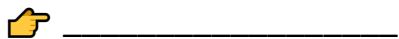
Even in the United States, there has been a shift in the last 40 years to more “\_\_\_\_\_ -on” and “\_\_\_\_\_ -based” parenting.

Some of this was caused by increased media coverage of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

*... even though, statistically, the odds of your child being abducted by a stranger are .000007%, which is “effectively zero.”*

**And different cultures parent differently. Researchers define three different parenting style:**



don’t enforce rules, ‘kids will be kids’

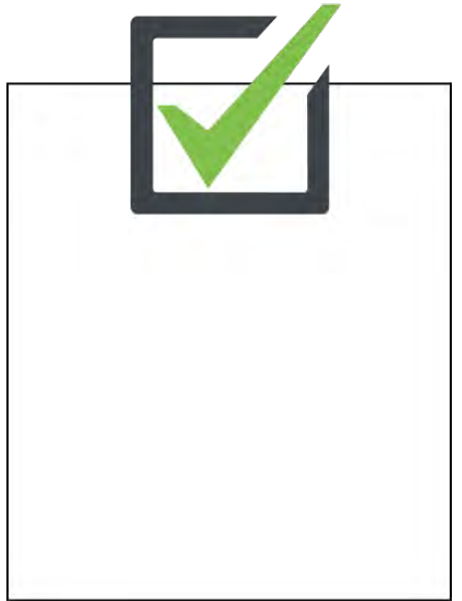
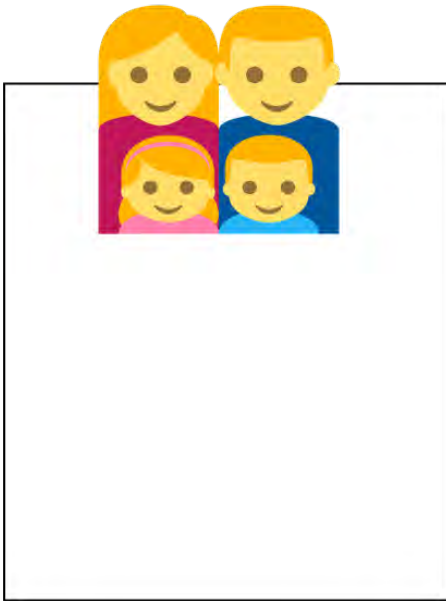
create positive relationship, enforce rules

focus on obedience, punishment over discipline

# Unattended Children

Early research thought that \_\_\_\_\_ was best because early studies only used \_\_\_\_\_ families.

Later research discovered that white children do best with **AUTHORITATIVE** parenting, but black and Asian children do best with **AUTHORITARIAN**.



SO... have a little \_\_\_\_\_ for parents.

## But...

Having compassion is \_\_\_\_\_ the same thing as "anything goes"...

## TOOLS

Many of the trainings we do have very specific approaches. In most ways, this is standard \_\_\_\_\_-driven enforcement.

**So use everything from the core training.** *That said, there are \_\_\_\_\_ areas that are especially important so we'll dig into them more deeply.*



# TALKING TO PARENTS

ABOUT THEIR CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOR

USE ALL OF EMPATHY-DRIVEN ENFORCEMENT™, BUT TWO TOOLS ARE ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT:

## DON'T JUDGE



**REMEMBER THAT PARENTING IS REALLY FREAKIN' HARD**  
*(and "parenting while poor" is extra extra freakin' hard).*



**AVOID OPINIONS OR ADVICE**



**FOCUS ON FUTURE BEHAVIOR**



**STICK TO THE FACTS ABOUT BEHAVIOR** (NOT about their parenting)

## LISTEN



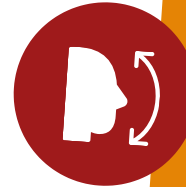
**FOCUS ON YOUR BODY LANGUAGE**

- Eye contact
- Open body language
- Friendly facial expression



**ACTIVELY LISTEN**

Do not interrupt or formulate your response while the person is talking.



**"ATTENDING SKILLS"**

Nodding or an occasional "uh huh"



**ASK TWO TYPES OF QUESTIONS**

- Open-ended questions
- Active listening questions ("If I understand you correctly...")