



4-H School-Age Child Care  
University of California Cooperative Extension

# PARENT STYLES II

## Tips for Busy Parents

### THE CLASS CLOWN

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*Tommy is a charming child with a wonderful sense of humor. The problem is that he chooses the wrong time to display this behavior. He often interrupts in class with jokes and comments. Whenever the teacher calls on him, he makes wisecracks, instead of answering the question. This behavior has caused him to be sent to the Principals Office on several occasions.*

When children direct their behaviors and energies in less than positive ways, it can be a real challenge for parents and teachers. Children most often behave in this way because they don't know the behavior is inappropriate or because they have been rewarded in the past for this type of behavior. (i.e., in Tommy's case, he gets the attention of the class and teacher.)

**Following are some suggestions for helping your children develop positive social behaviors:**

- ★ **Talk With Your Children.** Let them know your expectations. When there is a problem, approach it in a calm and rational manner.

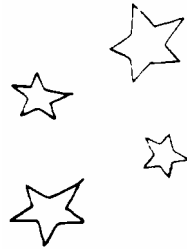


- ★ **Listen to Your Children.** Give your children your full attention. Don't interrupt. Let them express how they feel.
- ★ **Model Positive Behaviors.** Parents are children's first and most influential teachers. Teach your children how to behave, by how **you** act.
- ★ **Show Interest in Your Children.** Don't just do things **for** them, do things **with** them. Build family activities around their interests.
- ★ **Teach Your Children Social Skills.** Show them how to meet new people, join in a play group, compliment others, or resolve a conflict. These skills don't just happen, children need your help to learn them.
- ★ **Reinforce Positive Behaviors.** It is very easy to focus on the negative; however, children need to hear the positive.

**Catch your child doing good! Praise those behaviors!**

# STAR POWER CHART

1. Set aside a few minutes each evening for the next several weeks to spend with your child. Talk about what happened at school that day. Discuss problems and how she can deal with them in an appropriate manner.
2. Develop a "*Star Power Chart*" with your child listing positive behaviors.
3. Together, list behavior changes such as completing homework, taking turns, following classroom rules, raising hand to speak, etc.
4. Design a reward for improved behavior.



## POSITIVE BEHAVIORS STAR CHART

### DAYS OF THE WEEK

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>

My reward for working toward my goals is: \_

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